MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 FEBRUARY 1982

Egypt

Shamir Visit -- The Palestinian Arabs have achieved self-determination in Jordan; the Camp David negotiations tried to solve the problem of those Palestinian Arabs who live in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, not to create a new Palestinian state, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in remarks appended to his prepared 23 February luncheon speech in Cairo and quoted by AL-AHRAM. Shamir also said progress in normalization will bear fruit in the autonomy talks and suggested that Israel and Egypt concentrate on the transitional autonomy period and exclude for now issues related to the autonomy area's final status. Advocating adherence to the letter and spirit of Camp David, Shamir stated that the concept of self-determination is absolutely excluded.

Commenting on these remarks at a 25 February joint news conference reported by MENA, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: "Neither Egypt nor Israel can change the world's map. Jordan is Jordan, and any other differences must be discussed." 'Ali also said Egypt is inflexible regarding even an inch of its territory and explained that the precise border demarcation in Rafah must be determined in accordance with the 1906 line agreed upon in the peace treaty, and is therefore not a political but a technical problem.

A joint statement reported by MENA said Shamir's talks in Egypt were held in an atmosphere of friendship and friendliness. The statement noted that Shamir and 'Ali decided to promote implementing past agreements and stressed the need to push the autonomy talks forward.

Shamir told accompanying Israeli correspondents that he was convinced by talks with Mubarak and other Egyptian leaders that the peace treaty will be honored in the future, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir also cited his hosts' formulation that peace is the basic principle in Egypt's regional foreign policy and quoted Mubarak's view that the day is not distant when other states will join the peace process.

Press Comment -- In an editorial reported by MENA, AL-AHRAM reiterated Egypt's determination not to sign a declaration of principles on full autonomy that would be unacceptable to the Palestinians and called upon Israel to accept the Palestinians as a people like the Israelis, enjoying a right to self-determination.

Israel

Unity Government Rejection -- In a letter to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres rejected Begin's suggestion to form a national unity government, Jerusalem radio reported.

Sharon, 'Ivri Interviews -- Israel will not allow Jordan to purchase sophisticated arms from the United States, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told Paris MATCH in an interview reported by YEDI'OT AHARONOT. Claiming that the Arab states are not a rational element whose sanity can be relied upon, Sharon said that if any Arab state approaches the manufacture of an Atomic bomb, Israel will act immediately. Sharon also reiterated that Israel will not allow remilitarization of the Sinai, the Iraqi Army's entry into Jordan, or permanent Syrian occupation of Lebanon. "We want peace, but we must assure ourselves of conditions we can live with," Sharon added.

Restating Israel's conviction that Syria is planning to start a war, Sharon claimed that Israel knew this before annexing the Golan, adding that Israel's move was designed to demonstrate its determination and that it helped postpone the Syrian attack.

In an interview carried by BAMAHANE, Air Force Commander Maj Gen David 'Ivri said that to a certain extent Israel is returning to the mentality preceding the 6-Day War and that it will have to be more apprehensive about a surprise attack. He cited as reasons the shrinkage of Israel's airspace, the reduction of its airfields and Jordan's increased potential

for cooperating with Iraq, Syria, or Saudi Arabia if Jordanian military sophistication continues to grow.

Golan Strike Situation -- As the Golan Druze strike entered its 12th day, four Druze villages were closed off by military order, Jerusalem radio reported. A military spokesman attributed the closure to security reasons, but a person involved in efforts to settle the strike told the radio that the measure was designed to stop Israeli leftists from entering the area. The radio later reported confrontations between the IDF and newsmen at the entrances to these villages, but said the villages themselves were completely quiet.

Syria

Al-Asad Interview -- Nobody should assume that efforts to secure implementation of UN resolutions condemning Israel are Syria's only weapon or option, President Hafiz al-Asad warned in an interview with Italian television broadcast by Damascus radio. Al-Asad contended that the U.S. commitment to qualitative and strategic Israeli superiority is designed to secure Arab capitulation because the United States realizes that in the presence of such superiority there can be no chances for peace. On Syrian disagreements with Iraq, Al-Asad said that an uninterrupted front against Israel extending from Syria to Iraq and Iran was unacceptable to the United States and Zionism, and this fact explains why projected unity between Syria and Iraq was aborted and the Iraqi-Iranian war ignited. He also expressed his confidence that Egypt would extricate itself from its Camp David shackles.

Security Situation -- Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that the situation in Hamah and Aleppo continued to deteriorate. The radio cited reports that Hamah was shelled by planes and artillery and said several thousand died and many were wounded as a result of the recent clashes. The radio also reported two explosions, a fire at a science exhibition and the assassination of a senior party official in Aleppo.

Hamah Governor Interview -- Hamah Governor Muhammad Khalid Harbah, in a Syrian television interview broadcast by Damascus radio, contrasted the Muslim Brotherhood's "vile" conduct with the Ba'th Party's "manners." He said that on 2 February mosque loudspeakers began inciting people to fight and chaos prevailed in the streets, but that as a result of efforts by Ba'th members and security forces, the Muslim Brotherhood was confined to one area by evening and the next morning everything was over for good. Because the Muslim Brothers killed many Ba'thists, the party decided to reply with bullets and took decisive action on the second day. The party is now determined not to leave any traces of the Brotherhood in the city, he said.

Asserting that the Brotherhood had been disrupting the city's economic life for over 3 years, killing people in rural areas and trying to alienate them from the city, Harbah contended that the Brotherhood could not find legitimate grounds for their actions in either religion or social justice. He stressed the benefits of the Ba'thist state, especially since the corrective movement, to the poor and the city, thanked "father leader" Al-Asad, and promised Hamah's continued faithfulness to him and the party.

Libyan-Tunisian Relations

Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi decided to overcome all difficulties that impeded normal relations between the two countries, Tunis radio reported. In an interview with the Qatari paper AR-RAYAH reported by KUNA, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali expressed confidence that the countries will resolve their problems on the basis of work to ensure a complementary union, since a merger-type union belongs to future generations.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

President Saddam Husayn disclosed that a battalion of North Yemeni volunteers are currently training in Iraq, INA reported. The disclosure came when both Saddam and visiting Yemen Arab Republic President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih addressed the troops at their training camp.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AL-ANBA': ARAB SUMMIT MIGHT RECONVENE IN RIYADH

WA251500 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 18 Feb 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reported Wednesday that the next Arab Summit Conference might be held in Riyadh.

The newspaper explained, based on a statement by an Arab personality who participated in last week's emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, that the conference's participants have discussed behind-the-scenes the possibility of reconvening the Arab Summit Conference in Riyadh following its suspension in Fes. to provide it with the necessary conditions for its success.

AL-ANBA' added that the suspension of the Fes Summit was very much on the minds of the participants and forced them to avoid extreme stands.

The newspaper also reported that the Gulf States played a major role in endorsing practical decisions rather than some resolutions, which advocated, for example, the breaking of relations with the United States and the withdrawal of Arab funds from Western banks, which are not feasible at this time.

It is worth noting that the conference [in Tunis] that was held at the request of Syria to discuss the annexation of the Golan has ended its meetings last Saturday by condemning the United States and Israel, but without deciding on any meaningful economic and financial punitive actions which were called for by Syria against these two countries.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI INTERVIEWS 'ARAFAT

JN251758 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The Paris Arabic weekly AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has published an interview with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in which he said that Prince Fahd's plan is still a good basis for establishing a just peace in the Middle East despite our reservations, particularly on certain points in the plan. 'Arafat pointed out that Prince Fahd's plan will be discussed during the next Arab summit.

On President Mitterrand's forthcoming visit to Israel, 'Arafat stressed that the visit will harm Franco-Arab relations and said that during the recent Arab foreign ministers meetings in Tunis, some Arab states took a negative attitude vis-a-vis France because of Mitterrand's insistance on visiting Israel.

The Palestinian leaders said that he had definite information that the Israeli forces are about to launch a large-scale offensive against Lebanon and that this offensive might reach Beirut.

PLO OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ASSAILS HABIB'S MISSION

JN252112 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar thinks that Philip Habib's mission to the Middle East proves the continuing U.S. policy of aggression in the Arab region. Abu Mayzar added that Washington's claim that it is adhering to maintaining the cease-fire is a maneuver aimed at imposing a U.S. solution on the Lebanese crisis.

BRIEFS

GULF PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX -- An agreement concerning the major contract for the construction of the Gulf petrochemical complex was signed between the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company and the Italian engineering company (Snamprushti) in Manama today. The Gulf Petrochemical Company is owned by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. [Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Feb 82 GF]

BAHRAIN

LEBANON'S AL-WAZZAN MEETS AMIR ON 1-DAY VISIT

Arrives 25 Feb

GF251416 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH) -- Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived here from Doha today for a short visit to Bahrain within the framework of his current tour of a number of countries in the region. Mr al-Wazzan was received on arrival by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and senior Bahraini officials.

During his visit Mr al-Wazzan will hold talks with Bahraini officials on the situation in Lebanon, current Arab issues and bilateral relations.

Meets With Amir

GF251543 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH) -- Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, today received Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who is currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah, the minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of the interior; Yusuf Ahmad ash-Sharawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwi', director of the Prime Minister's Office.

Makes Statement, Departs

GF251548 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH) -- Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan left Manama today en route home following a visit of several hours to Bahrain. He was seen off at the airport by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman and senior officials.

The Lebanese prime minister made a predeparture statement to WAKH in which he expressed happiness at concluding his tour of the region's states with what could be called the crowning touch. He said Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain had showed full understanding of all of the problems and worries in Lebanon and all issues discussed.

He said the Bahraini Government has shown readiness to offer Lebanon help and assistance in the political field or any other field Lebanon might require to help it out of the current crisis.

The Lebanese prime minister pointed out that everyone is aware that what is happening in Lebanon is happening to the entire Arab nation. The harm does not affect Lebanon alone; it affects the whole Arab nation. Al-Wazzan stressed the need of finding a joint Arab action to confront the climaxing Israeli threats. He stressed that such threats should not be viewed as mere threats or attempts at intimidation; they should rather be viewed with full seriousness and readiness.

QATAR

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH AMIR 25 FEB

GF251254 Doha QNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Doha, 25 Feb (QNA) -- Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, today received Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the delegation accompanying him which had arrived in Doha earlier. During the meeting the Lebanese situation in general and the situation in the south in particular were reviewed in light of the continuous Israeli threats. Means of restoring security and stability to the south, the current Arab and international situations, and bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in all fields were also reviewed.

Mr al-Wazzan briefed the amir on the results of his talks with leaders of countries he has been to up to now. These countries are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE.

Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, the Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense also met with Shafiq al-Wazzan and the delegation accompanying him, bilateral relations and ways of bolstering and developing them were reviewed.

Mr al-Wazzan arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi earlier today.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-MADINAH CRITICIZES HAIG'S REMARKS ON EGYPT

GF260420 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 21 Feb 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Egypt...In Haig's Slips of Tongue"]

[Excerpts] They say in the United States that Alexander Haig is a man who outruns his tongue. His main problem is that his tongue is faster than he is. They also say that many times the "poor man" has become involved in deadly slips of the tongue because of his inability to control the feelings and emotions that the formalities of protocol require. Out of decorum and diplomacy, he must avoid expressing these feelings because of the trouble he will create "slips" of the tongue was his well known statement on the day President Reagan was almost assassinated. He rushed to the television station to announce to the American people that he was in charge of the White House until the President's condition became clearer. This statement provoked sarcasm even from the television commentator who introduced him. The commentator said: "This serious statement will cause the secretary of state big problems, constitutionally he is the fourth or fifth in line for the White House, if the president is assassinated or dies." After that, criticism was aimed at him from all directions.

We read what international news agencies have reported recently on his vile and base characterizations of his British counterpart. This description included a word that is contrary to decorum, and press formalities prevent us from using it here as it was used by Haig. We believe this word will lead to tension in Anglo-American relations.

After a long list of calumniation and slander against Lord Carrington, Great Britian and Europeans in general, Alexander Haig said: "I am pessimistic and worried about Egypt's return to the Arab ranks."

We have to ask Haig: Why this worry and pessimism? Has Egypt ever been one of the 50 states of the United States? Have the Arabs taken it from the American lap? Is Egypt a Latin American country? Is Egypt, in the U.S. political view, a newly-discovered American colony that you are worried about because of the Arabs?

Do you want the Arabs to understand that U.S. policy is secretly conspiring to wrest the largest Arab country from the Arab nation? Do you want us to understand that the clauses of the Camp David agreement state that anyone who signs it must give up his affiliation and Arabism? Do you want us to understand that U.S. policy will prevent Egypt, the Egyptian people and the Egyptian command from returning to the Arab nation? Who has given Alexander Haig this right? Who has given the United States or others the right to announce this perspective, which is not based on logic or truth?

Egypt was born Arab and will return to its Arab nation whether Alexander Haig wants this or whether he becomes angry or whether the U.S. State Department wants this or not. Egypt and its people will return to the lap of the Arab nation. The Egyptian command in Cairo must reply to Haig's fears and pessimism. The reply must be purely Egyptian to turn these fears into cries and so that pessimism can be replaced with wailing.

No one wants Egypt to abolish the Camp David accords on 25 April and no one will ask Egypt to declare war on Israel on that date.

Under the circumstances of "political cheating," Egypt signed an agreement with Israel and that was the end. If As-Sadat signed this agreement against the will of the Muslim Arab Egyptian people, this issue has become recorded in history. However, no one can force Egypt into gambling again on any links or other treaties.

If we have a final word to say now, we inform Alexander Haig of the good news that Egypt will free itself from Camp David through Israel's aggressive acts and practices. One day, Egypt, the sovereign and independent state, must stand with other countries of the world in condemning and denouncing the aggressive deeds that represent the nature of Israeli policy. It is enough for Israel to carry out aggression against the Arab nation to be denounced and condemned by Egypt. If the world imposes sanctions against Israel and decides to sever relations with it, Egypt, the symbol of civilization, will respond to this.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON GULF SECURITY COOPERATION

PM251055 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 21 Feb 82 p 3

[Sulayman an-Nasir interview with Minister of the Interior Amir Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in Riyadh -- date not given]

[Excerpts] The Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Morocco yesterday signed an agreement on security cooperation in the fields of exchanging expertise, training and security followup. The agreement was signed by His Royal Highness Amir Nayif ibn al-'Aziz, the minister of the interior, and Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri.

In an interview with AR-RIYAD Amir Nayif said that the kingdom will shortly sign a similar agreement with the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman.

His highness asserted that the kingdom wished to have good relations with Iran, particularly in the security field. "We are still looking forward to such relations. If the Iranians reciprocated this feeling and stopped tampering with Gulf security we would certainly not be unresponsive."

The following is text of the interview with his highness:

[Question] What is your comment on certain law violations by foreign workers [in Saudi Arabia]

[Answer] First it must be known that there are in the kingdom no less than 2.5 million non-Saudis of various nationalities. With the presence of such a large number of foreigners there is bound to be certain violations which, considering this large number, are very few in comparison.

So I hope that the matter will not be given more importance than it actually deserves. This, however, does not mean that we show no concern about this matter. Thank God, we are capable of dealing with these matters promptly and the security organs are capable of uncovering crimes of any kind and of carrying out deterrent punishment in accordance with the laws of our religion.

[Question] Decisions adopted by the GCC are characterized by their rationality. The [security] agreement between the kingdom and Bahrain is a point in fact. The GCC states are trying not to escalate the situation. In view of the statements made by Iranian leaders regarding the agreement between the kingdom and Bahrain, will such statements affect the signing of the proposed agreement with the rest of the GCC states?

[Answer] The agreement signed with Bahrain is a cooperation agreement between the two ministries of the interior on general matters of security. We will, God willing, sign similar agreements with the other sisterly states maybe after a few days.

This agreement will in no way affect the comprehensive agreement which might be concluded as a result of the meeting of the GCC ministers of the interior which is to be held next week. We will support without reservation the signing of a unified and comprehensive security agreement covering all matters, although cooperation and coordination in security matters does exist between various Gulf states. But the existence of a comprehensive security agreement is useful. Certainly if such an agreement is concluded it will be comprehensive and the bilateral agreements already concluded or which are going to be concluded will come under the comprehensive agreement, God willing.

With regard to the dangers threatening the Gulf region, particularly from Iran, they are, unfortunately, real. We are facing these matters as actual facts. When we mention Iran in this regard we do not do so for ulterior motives. We would have wished to have good relations with Iran in matters of security in particular, and we are still looking forward to having such relations. But if the Iranians reciprocate such feelings with us and stopped tampering with Gulf security we would certainly not be unresponsive.

[Question] The Ministry of the Interior has banned the travel of Saudis to Iran.

[Answer] Yes, there is something to this effect. We do not see any benefit from travel to Iran by Saudis because there is nothing to be gained from it. In fact, the Saudis that go there might be mistreated one way or another.

UAE

YAR PRESIDENT MAKES PREDEPARTURE STATEMENT

GF231239 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 February (WAKH) -- YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has declared that the YAR will submit a working paper to the forthcoming Arab summit on ways to achieve Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

In a predeparture statement to WAM in Abu Dhabi today, the YAR president said the YAR paper has four basic points: restoration of relations that have been severed between some Arab countries; ending propaganda campaigns between them; resolving differences by peaceful negotiations; and setting up a higher committee for arbitration and resolving differences. He said the achievement of these objectives represents the minimum level of Arab coordination necessary to create a favorable climate for confronting the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation.

The YAR president asserted that the first stage of his current tour of area countries has achieved its goal of developing relations between the YAR and these countries. He said his current tour has multifaceted aims. Some of these are connected with bilateral relations and joint cooperation while others are connected with the current Arab situation and practical ways to clear the air, particularly in light of current international developments that have a bearing on our common cause.

In his statement the YAR president emphasized that the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean should be an area of peace free of the causes and factors that lead to just the opposite. He declared: "This is our consistent stand at all times. It is a natural stand because we are seeking to create a climate that will enable us to build our present and the future of our coming generations in all Arab countries."

Referring to the security situation in some Arab countries, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said this matter is part and parcel of the current Arab situation. He stressed that Arab cooperation is the best way to strengthen inter-Arab relations and make them more effective. He asserted that Arab cooperation, as well as constant consultations among Arab leaders, will achieve our common objectives and strengthen the security and stability of every Arab in every Arab country.

The YAR president expressed satisfaction with the response shown by the Yemeni people to the decision to open the door to volunteers for the Palestinian resistance. He said that all Yemenis have responded to the call to open the door to volunteers and that a number of Yemeni volunteers have died in the trenches of the Palestinian revolution fighting for their belief in the justice of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination on their land.

Referring to the plan to unify the two parts of Yemen, the YAR president noted: Steps have been taken toward the unification of the two parts of Yemen, including establishment of joint cultural and economic institutions. The joint constitutional committee has completed the draft constitution for the unified state. Other joint steps should be studied and implemented.

The YAR president added: It is not easy in a few years time to end a division that has lasted for decades, particularly when the backwardness and other problems that have been inherited from the past are taken into consideration. It is necessary to work constantly to achieve this national aim that will assist in consolidating security and stability throughout the Arab region.

VOL REPORT ON DIPLOMAT IN BEIRUT DENIED

GF260558 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0517 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 25 Feb (WAKH) -- The UAE Embassy in Beirut denied today that any of its diplomats or employees had been the victims of any attack this morning. An embassy spokesman said the report broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon -- which claimed that an embassy diplomat had been robbed at a checkpoint manned by the Arab Deterrent Force [ADF] in western Beirut -- is totally untrue.

The Voice of Lebanon reported that a diplomatic car belonging to the UAE Embassy had been stopped at an ADF checkpoint in the Concorde area and that a diplomat in the car had been robbed of his passport and wallet.

PDRY

DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER ON RIYADH MEETING

EA252048 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Brother 'Abd al-Wasi Swallam, deputy interior minister, returned to Aden yesterday evening after participating, at the head of an Interior Ministry delegation, in the extraordinary conference of Arab interior ministers held recently in Riyadh.

In a statement to ANA, the brother deputy interior minister said: During the conference we were given the opportunity of meeting Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, interior minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He asked us to convey an oral message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Peoples Supreme Assembly of the Council of Ministers, from Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, crown prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, concerning bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. He added: Prince Nayif also entrusted me with a similar message from himself to Brother Col Muhammad Abdullah al-Batani, candidate member of the Central Committee and interior minister.

The brother deputy minister went on: We were also afforded the opportunity at the conference to reaffirm, in our speech, our constant desire for the security and stability of our country on the basis of our faith that this security and stability are a gift from no one. Rather they were achieved through the suffering of our people and the sacrifices of thousands of martyrs. We were and still are able to protect our country from any attempt to violate it.

He added: In our speech we also stressed that our Yemeni people not only desire their internal security and stability but also the security and stability of the entire region because they realize the importance of stability with regard to their economic and social development.

We pointed out that Yemenis, despite their dispersal in millions all over the world, have been and always will be messengers of peace, love and brotherhood. They participate with their brothers in many Arab states in the building, construction and progress of those states. To conclude, he said: At the conference we met a number of Arab interior ministers and discussed with them relations between the Interior Ministry in our country and the interior ministries in their sisterly countries.

BRIEFS

SOVIET KOMSOMOL DELEGATION ARRIVES -- A Soviet Komsomol delegation led by the assistant chief for Komsomol work of the Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, Comrade Kozlov, arrived in Aden at dawn today on a visit to last several days. In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Comrade Kozlov said his visit comes within the framework of exchanges aimed at cementing and strengthening the relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the visit officials of the youth sector of the PDRY Armed Forces will be briefed on the extensive preparations being made by the youth in the Soviet army for the 19th Komsomol Congress, which will be held in May. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 82 EA]

SHAMIR, 'ALI END TALKS WITH JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

NC251530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held a press conference this afternnon on the conclusion of Shamir's visit to Egypt.

At the outset of the news conference 'Ali made a statement, saying that during the Israeli foreign minister's visit several issues were discussed pertinent to bilateral relations and the autonomy talks for the Palestinians. He described the visit as constructive and a step on the peace path. He expressed his thnaks for Shamir for the the cooperation he showed during the talks.

'Ali voiced his hope that the peace process, the normalization of relations and the autonomy talks will proceed within the framework expressed during the talks and as was achieved regarding the peace agreement between the two countries.

Yitzhaq Shamir made a statement at the press conference. He began it by expressing his thanks to Kamal Hasan 'Ali for the hospitality accorded him which included a visit to Luxor, where we have seen the greatness of the ancient Egyptians.

Shamir described the talks he held with 'Ali as useful and constructive. He said that the goal of his visit to Egypt was to exchange views with the Egyptian officials and to discuss the steps of the peace process, autonomy and bilateral relations. He said that depsite the differences in views, peace is continuing.

Asked by an Israeli journalist about the reasons for not setting a final date for President Husni Mubarak's visit to Israel, and whether the visit will include Jerusalem, 'Ali said that, as Yitzhaq Shamir said following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak in the morning, the visit is scheduled and will take place. As for the date and details of the visit, both countries will discuss the date and itinerary of the visit.

Asked by a U.S. journalist about the important aspects of his visit to Egypt, Shamir said that the main aspect is that we have made a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and pushing the peace process forward. It was a good opportunity to meet with a number of responsible Egyptian leaders. As a result of this, Shamir said, I now understand better the views of the Egyptian officials. He said that the autonomy talks will continue and as regards bilateral relations, agreements and solutions have been reached regarding some problems. From this premise, I am convinced that this visit has added something to the peace process, Shamir said.

Asked about what he said at a luncheon banquet on the day before yesterday regarding the need to defer any talk in the autonomy negotiations about the posttransitional stage and that there is a Palestinian state in Jordan and whether Israel wants to impose on the Palestinians the destiny that it chooses, Shamir said: Egypt's position is different from ours. I have expressed our position that if the Palestinians are ready to establish their own state in the future, a solution can be found in the future for the Palestinian population in these areas.

Commenting on the Israeli foreign minister's answer, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: I want to add one remark: Neither Egypt nor Israel can change the world's map. Jordan is Jordan and any other differences must be discussed.

Asked about Egypt's inflexible position regarding the border line in the Rafah area, 'Ali said: If you mean that Egypt is inflexible regarding 1 inch of its territory, I tell you yes. He continued: The peace treaty stated that the international borders are as provided under the 1906 treaty. The borders were drawn according to this treaty and are shown on maps. The technical experts must reach a decision regard the exact deliniation of the borders in accordance with the 1906 treaty. This subject is the responsibility of the technical experts, who must reach an agreement on it, and is not a political decision.

At this point Shamir said: I want to express my opinion on this problem, although it is not part of my ministry's work but part of the work of the higher committee under the chairmanship of Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Ari'el Sharon, the Israeli defense minister. My understanding is that the talks and negotiations must continue to achieve a solution.

Asked whether he mentioned this morning that he wanted a guarantee from the Egyptians that they will continue as friends after 25 April, Shamir said: I did not say this. What is said is that the peace treaty is the (?signed) commitment between the two countries, and that after my talks with the officials here, I am convinced that peace will continue after this date -- 25 April.

In reply to another question, the Israeli foreign minister expressed his hope that agreement would be reached through the autonomy talks.

Shamir Departs Cairo

NC252007 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir left Cairo this evening for Tel Aviv following a 4-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During his visit to Egypt the Israeli foreign minister held important talks with Egyptian officials on bilateral relations, subjects related to normalization and the autonomy negotiations.

He was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason.

ISREALI AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

NC252152 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- An Israeli agricultural delegation led by Deputy Agriculture Minister (Samuel Buharis) left Cairo this evening following a 4-day visit to Egypt.

During this visit the delegation took part in the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Israeli Agricultural Committee on the process of normalization in the agricultural field.

EGYPTIAN ENVOY RAPS SHARON'S 'NEGATIVE' REMARKS

NC260950 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Egypt's Ambassador in Washington, Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, met with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. They discussed the situation in the Middle East in light of the final Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai next April. They also dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

MENA reports that Haig briefed Dr Ghurbal on U.S. policy in the Middle East during the forthcoming phase.

In the meantime, Dr Ashraf Ghurbal has called on Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to curb his negative comments on the Middle East developments. Dr Ghurbal added that [words indistinct] in which we are moving closer to peace entails that we must curb our eloquent statements and talk about the positive elements without resorting to threats.

Dr Ghurbal expressed happiness over the return of U.S. envoy Philip Habib to Lebanon in an effort to maintain the fragile cease-fire between the PLO and Israel in southern Lebanon.

MUHYI AD-DIN: PEACE MEANS INCREASED DEVELOPMENT

NC252302 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has affirmed that all the arrangements have been made for Egypt to receive all the sites in the Sinai on 25 April.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published in Friday's issue, Dr Muhyi ad-Din pointed out that Egyptian working groups are currently present in the remaining parts of the Sinai, which the Israeli forces will hand over to Egypt. They will be ready to take over their administration immediately.

The prime minister said that peace which has become a historic reality in our lives, after it had been a subjective reality since 1973, means increased investments and higher rates of development. This despite the fact that the strategy Egypt has drawn for itself to defend its security in view of its location in a sensitive area of the world demands continuous development of the armed forces and war production plants to meet the needs of the Egyptian Armed Forces and friendly states.

MILITARY COMMITTEE ENDS SESSION; 'ALI BRIEFED

NC251826 Cairo MENA In English 1745 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali met today with heads of the two sides to the Egyptian-Israeli Joint Military Committee, both Vice Admiral Muhsin Hamdi and General Dov Si'on. The committee wound up its work here today.

Hamdi told MENA that they submitted a comprehensive report to the deputy premier on the results of the meeting of the committee and reported to him on the points already agreed upon and those under discussion.

The first Egyptian administration group today entered the southern region of Sinai to undertake as of today the responsibility of running and operating the utilities and establishments which Egypt bought from Israel to insure their continued operation after the Israeli final withdrawal on April 26 [as received], he added.

Other groups will successively go to the south of Sinai on March first and on March 8 to prepare for the take over of the remaining part of Sinai. On March 15 another team of experts is to go there to take over and operate the "Negev" and "Ra's Nasrani" airports, Vice Admiral Hamdi added.

The Egyptian-Israeli Joint Military Committee will hold its coming meeting on March 21 to discuss the final details of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in a bid to hoist the Egyptian flag on the remaining part including "Sanafir" and "Tiran", Vice Admiral Hamdi said.

The committee will also discuss the preparations for the limited ceremony to be held on the occasion on April 26, he added.

AL-AHRAM CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION

NC252356 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- In Friday's issue, the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM calls on Israel to place the Palestinian people's issue in its proper framework as a people who should have all the rights enjoyed by the other peoples of the world in order for just, comprehensive and permanent peace to be achieved.

The paper says in its editorial that it is impossible to accept that the Israelis are a people enjoying all the rights while the Palestinians are something else other than a nation or people.

The paper points out that the Israeli position on the issue of Palestinian autonomy continues to produce from time to time something new or an old invention with a new cover. The paper says that Israel considers that there are two Palestinian peoples -- one that has actually decided its fate a long time ago and merged into the state of Jordan and another Palestinian people that lives in "the Israeli territories" and thus the principle of a minority applies to it -- that is to say, they can be given self-rule without sovereignty or land.

The paper points out that this view which gets rid of the Palestinian problem could be an extension of a long historic chapter that considers the Palestinians as refugees. This is a recurring attempt to avoid describing the Palestinians as a people.

The paper explains Israeli's reasons for avoiding the concept of a Palestinian people. It involves the need for recognition of their right to self-determination. The right of self-determination is also connected with the declaration of a Palestinian state. Therefore, there is no escape from the Israeli view vis-a-vis the nonrecognition of the Palestinian people first.

Concluding its commentary, the paper notes Egypt's determination not to sign a declaration of principles on full autonomy which will not be acceptable to the Palestinian people.

AL-AKHBAR: NO MUBARAK CONTACT WITH PLO, HUSAYN

NC241452 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] The Cairo daily AL-AKHBAR today emphasized that Egyptian President Mubarak has not received any messages from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat or from King Husayn of Jordan.

In an interview granted to the SUNDAY TIMES the day before yesterday, Egyptian journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal said he has a letter from 'Arafat saying that the PLO was prepared to facilitate the process of Egypt's return to the Arab world.

This statement was tantamount to a clarification of Haykal, who was quoted by an Arab newspaper as saying that Husni Mubarak has personally received a message from 'Arafat.

GHALI: AFRICA AFFIRMS CAIRO'S 'VANGUARD ROLE'

NC260803 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] The heads of the delegations at the OAU ministerial meetings have affirmed that the African continent is waiting for Egypt to carry out its vanguard role in resolving African conflicts. They stressed Egypt's responsibility for carrying out a positive role in resolving African conflicts after it regains its territories in the Sinai.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali reported this to the radio correspondent in Addis Ababa. He added that he had explained to the African foreign ministers Egypt's interest in bolstering its relations with the African countries. He further noted that the Egyptian delegation had held contacts with a number of the African foreign ministers in an attempt to avoid a rift in the OAU and resolve the differences between Morocco and the Western Sahara republic. He also said ideas were drawn up for resolving this conflict to be submitted to the African leaders.

The OAU Ministerial Council is scheduled to resume its meetings this morning in Addis Ababa to complete the debates on the agenda's topics.

AL-AKHBAR DENOUNCES POLISARIO ADMISSION

NC260010 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2242 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- AL-AKHBAR denounces the decision of the OAU Secretary General to admit Polisario into the OAU Ministerial Council and to permit its delegation to attend the Addis Ababa conference.

The paper says: We hope that matters will take their normal course and that the aim will be the general interest of the African states and the achievement of this interest through understanding and wisdom, away from any outside influences or foreign purposes seeking their interests at the expense of Africa.

The paper adds that this is Egypt's policy and its approach in dealing with major issues involving the interests of the states of the region. The paper says that it is a matter of a state that had no previous historical existence and lacks the requisites of a state.

EGYPT'S OIL CORPORATION DISCUSSING NEW CONTRACTS

NC260913 Cairo MENA in English 0840 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) -- The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) is currently negotiationg 20 new agreements with a number of international oil companies for oil exploration and exploitation in several onshore and offshore areas in Egypt. This will add to 75 agreements already concluded for oil exploration and prospecting, according to an EGPC source.

The petroleum sector is planning to produce by next June 35.5 million tons of oil crude including 2.5 million tons of natural gas. This marks an increase five times the figure of production in 1974 and an increase of 2.5 million tons over last year, the source said.

From the total value of this production put at 9,070 million dollars, some 1,880 million are expended on oil exploration and development and the running of oilfields together with the foreign contractor share. The remaining 7,190 million dollars stand as the state's share, broken up into 4,300 million for refineries and locally consumed gases and 2,890 million for oil exports abroad.

YAR PRESIDENT ARRIVES FROM JORDAN 25 Feb

JN251130 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived here this morning at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. He was received upon arrival by President Saddam Husayn; Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf; Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; several RCC members; and the ministers.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed YAR's appreciation for and pride in Iraq's steadfastness and struggle against challenge and aggression. In a press statement upon arrival, he added: We support Iraq with all that we possess in its confrontatin of dangers. We also appreciate Iraq's positive response to the international efforts seeking to put an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war in a manner which guarantees both sides' legitimate rights. He added that his visit to Iraq is part of his tour of several fraternal countries and a continuation of the visits he started at the end of last year. He described his current visit to Iraq as a good opportunity to meet with Iraqi officials, headed by President Saddam Husayn, so as to exchange opinions on ways of developing bilateral cooperation, in addition to talks on the current Arab situation. Concluding, he expressed confidence that his visit would lead to positive results serving the two fraternal countries and the Arab nation.

Talks Begin

JN251902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn and his guest YAR President Col 'Ali Abdallah Salih this evening held a session of official talks which focused on bilateral relations and the current Arab situation. INA has learned that President Saddam Husayn and his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a closed meeting during which they discussed the major events in the Arab Gulf region and the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

PRESIDENT HAILS PRESENCE OF YAR BATTALION

JN251710 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn disclosed that a battalion of Yemeni volunteers are currently taking part in a training camp while visiting them together with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) who arrived in Baghdad earlier today. President Husayn, hailed the presence of the Yemeni fighters and addressed then saying you embodied the values of real Arabism and represent the symbol of Arab solidarity. President Husayn said history will speak proudly of President Salih's attitude and his decision to fight the enemy of the Arab nation and the enemy of humanity. The president added that those who betrayed the Arab nation and stabbed it from the back while cooperating with the enemy will be remembered in the historys black pages.

Further Details

JN251828 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has wholeheartedly greeted a battalion of YAR volunteer fighters. He addressed them saying: You embody the noble values of Arabism; you are the symbol of the fateful Arab solidarity.

During his visit, accompanied by the YAR president, to a camp in which the 'Amr Ibn Ma'di Karb battalion of the YAR forces is being trained within the Al-Muthanna forces, President Saddam Husayn said that the presence of Yemeni volunteers in Iraq would remain a symbol for the Iraqis and that they should pay a debt in service of the Arab nation when it needs them. He added that the presence of Yemeni men in Iraq means that men from Iraq and men from Yemen are now determining the fate of the one nation, repeating history and charting the unity constitution.

President Saddam Husayn said that the Iraqis will fight in support of Yemen when the need arises with two spirits -- in the spirit of affiliation to the nation and in the spirit prompted by stand Yemen has taken in support of Iraq. He added that the Iraqis will defend San'a' against any usurper enemy just as they did in defense of Basra, he said: It is important that we both should have a common history baptized with the blood of the valiant fighters in determining a new fate. He said that Iraq needs such a common history because the nation and every spot of the Arab homeland, including Syria, Egypt, Libya and Algeria would need this type of history in future.

The president said that the sons of Yemen, who volunteered after a decision by their leader, express the spirit of the Yemeni people and the principles of Yemen as well as the great principles aspired to by the Arab nation to attain its Arabism and humanitarian role in the world. In a reply speech, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih lauded Iraq's steadfastness and pan-Arab stands. He added that he who ignores these stands is a grudge-bearer against this noble people. He asserted that the YAR volunteers are a symbol of this republic and its armed forces and are sacrificing their pure blood alongside their brothers in their second home, Iraq, in defense of the Arab nation's dignity. He added that the Iraqi Armed Forces are not only defending Iraq but also the entire Arab nation. The Iraqi people's steadfastness is that of the Arab nation and their fighting on the eastern flank is that of the Arab nation.

President Salih said: The danger of intransigence would have never stopped in the Arab homeland and the Islamic land had it not been for the steadfastness of Iraq, Iraq's army and its leadership. He addressed the volunteers: You are a part of the Arab nation and of the Iraqi Army and leadership. The two presidents witnessed training courses and physical exercises at the camp. The guest president arrived in Baghdad earlier today as part of his Arab tour which has so far taken him to Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 627

JN241622 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) -- During the past 24 hours, Iraqi forces killed 45 Iranians and destroyed 6 vehicles, 2 excavators, 1 stockpile of ammunition and 3 observation posts. Communique No 627 issued by the Armed Forces General Command put Iraqi losses at 11 martyrs in all sectors. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today with the following result:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the Bostan sector with all kinds of weapons, killing 29 and destroying 1 vehicle, 2 excavators, and 1 stockpile of ammunition.
2. Eight killed and two observation posts destroyed in the Shush area.
3. Six killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area
4. Two killed and five vehicles and one observation post destroyed in the Abadan area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 45 killed and 6 vehicles, 2 excavators, 1 stockpile of ammunition and 3 observation posts destroyed.

5. Our sacrifices: 11 martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] the Armed Forces General Command, 24 February 1982

Communique No 628

JN251618 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes today attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the operations theater, inflicting grave losses on enemy personnel and vehicles before returning safely to base. Communique No 628 issued by the Armed Force General Command put enemy losses during the past 24 hours at 58 killed and 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 gun, 2 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher and 3 observation posts destroyed. The communique put Iraqi forces' sacrifices at seven martyrs and two vehicles damaged. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 628 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Armed with steadfast and lofty people and a strong army, great Iraq continues its just war until it regains its rights in land and waters. The following is the outcome of the military activities last night and today:

1. Our forward units continued to strike at the Persian enemy positions and concentrations in the Bostan region, killing 47 and destroying 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 vehicle laden with hardware and 1 observation post.
2. Our air force fighter planes today attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the operations theater, scoring direct hits and inflicting grave losses on the enemy personnel and vehicles, before returning safely to base.
3. Four were killed and one rocket launcher destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
4. Four were killed and one observation post destroyed in the Abadan area.
5. Three were killed and one gun and one observation post destroyed in the Shush area.
6. One vehicle was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amout to 58 killed and 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 gun, 2 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher and 3 observation posts destroyed.

7. Our sacrifices:

A. In personnel: 7 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: two vehicles damaged.

[Signed] the Armed Forces General Command, 25 February 1982

HUNGARIAN DEPUTY PREMIER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN252013 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) -- The Hungarian deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Jozsef Marjai, arrived here today heading a trade and economic delegation to attend the joint Iraqi-Hungarian committee for economic and technical cooperation. In a statement to the press on arrival, the Hungarian official said that his country attaches great importance to the discussions which he will hold with the Iraqi officials which will contribute to the promotion of economic cooperation between the two countries. Marjai said that the

discussions will bolster joint cooperation between the two countries which struggle against their mutual enemy, namely, imperialism and its agents. Jozsef Marjai was met by Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali.

UN ENVOY ARRIVES FOR TALKS ON MEDIATING WAR

JN241542 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) -- Olof Palme, the UN secretary general's special envoy, arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Iraq on a mission to seek a solution to the Iraqi-Iranian dispute. Palme is accompanied on this visit by Diego Cordovez, under secretary general for special political affairs. Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi welcomed Palme on his arrival at Baghdad airport.

Meets with Tariq 'Aziz

JN241947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, met tonight with Olof Palme, the UN secretary general's special envoy and former Swedish prime minister. The meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, dealt with the Iraqi-Iranian war and with the efforts of the UN secretary general's delegation. 'Aziz stressed that, since the beginning of the conflict, Iraq has welcomed the role that the UN secretary general's envoy is playing. He also stressed Iraq's constant stand which supports reaching a just and peaceful settlement.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN260908 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Olof Palme, the UN secretary general's special envoy and former Swedish prime minister, left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq as part of his mission to find a solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. In a statement to INA, Olof Palme said that he is more convinced than ever before of the need to find a solution to the Iraqi-Iranian war in a manner that guarantees the two sides' rights and interests. He was seen off by Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the UN representative in Baghdad.

YAR PRESIDENT MAKES STATEMENT, DEPARTS

JN251248 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his delegation left Amman this morning following a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with his Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on the current situation in both the Arab and international arenas as well as relations between the two fraternal countries.

He was accorded an official sendoff, in which his Majesty King Husayn and senior civilian and military officals took part.

In a statement to our radio correspondent Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: We have had very fruitful talks with his Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials in an atmosphere permeated by the spirit of fraternity and mutual understanding. Our talks dealt with the strong relations between the YAR and Jordan and means to promote these relations in the interest of the two countries.

President Salih added: We briefed His Majesty King Husayn and other officials in Jordan on the accomplishments with regard to restoring Yemeni unity, which is the aim and fate of the Yemeni people. We found understanding and response in support of these accomplishments for the benefit of the Yemeni people and the Arab nation.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that during the talks a review was made of the Arab situation which is marked by fragmentation and differences, a matter which has helped the Israeli enemy to continue its aggressive expansionist policy, using the conspiratorial Camp David agreement as a means to peddle its hostile plans against the Arab nation. He also said that the Jordanian and Yemeni sides asserted their resolution to exert all efforts to heal the Arab rift and to confront the state of collapse designed against this nation by intensifying Arab meetings on various levels and through efforts which can be exerted by those Arab states which have excellent relations with various Arab sides. Both sides also expressed their resolution to do their utmost to support the PLO in the face of Israeli aggression, to support all Arab forces which confront Israeli arrogance and haughtiness and to work for adopting a unified Arab stand alongside fraternal Iraq so as to confront the challenges and dangers caused by the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, to contain this war and search for a speedy solution after international efforts nad mediations have failed to reach an agreement on ending this war.

AD-DUSTUR VIEWS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISCORD

JN260932 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Feb 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AD-DUSTUR reported on the Egyptian prime minister's statements in which he rejected Shamir's ideas on the presence of a Palestinian state outside Palestine.

Under the headline "On Shamir's Visit to Cairo," AD-DUSTUR says: Shamir's claims are not new to us. Israel has made these claims more than once, especially after Jordan's firm announcement that the only acceptable option in settling the dispute is the Palestinian option and that the Palestinian people are the only ones who have the right to determine their fate on their homeland's soil. Some Palestinian people, displaced by occupation, have taken refuge in Jordan because it is an open country for all Arabs. However, Jordan remains the homeland of the Jordanians just as much as Palestine is the homeland of the Palestinians.

It is obvious from the Egyptian and Israeli officials' statements that Shamir's visit to Cairo did not achieve the desired results and failed to narrow the wide gap or overcome the serious differences between Egypt and Israel on autonomy. It seems that Shamir has also failed to fix a final date for President Husni Mubarak's anticipated visit to Israel.

Shamir's statements, as well as his talks with Egyptian officials in Cairo, reflect the Israeli viewpoint that autonomy is a means to give legitimacy to Israel's occupation of Arab lands and to its refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's presence and rights. Civil administration, in Israel's opinion, is for the inhabitants and not for the land which it will gradually judaize and empty of its Arab inhabitants by various means.

Egypt still adopts the conventional stand which says that autonomy is for both the inhabitants and the land. This is the first step toward the Palestinian people's exercise of their right to determine their fate and to establish their own independent state on Palestinian land. This is why Egypt has so far refused to sign any document related to autonomy or to negotiations over the future of the Palestinians on their behalf.

What is most surprising is Washington's silent stand on this substantial difference over the concept of autonomy and whether it supports Egypt's or Israel's viewpoint. If Washington's silence and ambiguous statements are merely at tactic until Israel's withdrawal from Sinai is completed, an announcement on the U.S. viewpoint would earnestly be required after 25 April when Israel's withdrawal would earnestly be required after 25 April when Israel's withdrawal from the rest of Sinai is completed. Washington will then be forced to define its stand and announce without ambiguity its viewpoint on the existing differences over autonomy and Palestinian rights.

PRIME MINISTER COMPLETES FOUR-STATE ARAB TOUR

NC251828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan returned to Beirut at 1900 today following a tour which took him to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar during which he held talks with the kings and amirs of these states on the situation in Lebanon in general and southern Lebanon in particular.

He was met at the airport by ministers, deputies, senior military and civilian officials and a large crowd of citizens.

AL-HANWADITH INTERVIEWS PREMIER AL-WAZZAN

NC261040 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] In a comprehensive interview granted to AL-HAWADITH, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan discussed the issue of the south, the internal situation, the fate of the army and the presidential elections.

With regard to the south, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that he had addressed, through [UN Under Secretary General] Brian Urquhart, a serious warning to the United Nations abqut Israel's leaning to invade the south as well as a call to increase the effectiveness of UN forces and to close the gaps open to the Israeli Army in the south.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said an Arab strategy committee has been charged by the Fes summit to draw up strategy for protecting south Lebanon but this does not preclude the drawing up of a comprehensive long-term strategy for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The prime minister emphasized Lebanon's adherence to the provisions of the truce agreement [with Israel] not to exceed the designated number of the Lebanese Army forces in the south namely, 1,500 soldier. He also declared the state's eagerness to draw up a program for the implementation of the agreements conlcuded with the Palestinian resistance, to postpone using the army until after the accord has been discussed and also to postpone the comprehensive dialogue.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan rejected a proposal to have a Christian personality head the end-of-term [the remaining period of President Sarkis term in office] government because this constitutes a challenge to Muslim patriotism. He also emphasized President Sarkis' rejection of the idea to extend his term of office.

TRIPOLI RETURNS TO NORMAL AFTER LEFTIST CLASHES

NC261101 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] According to a security report reaching the northern [army] company this morning, the city [Tripoli] is experiencing normal activities, particularly in At-Tabbanah and Al-Qubbah, where traffic movement is increasing constantly and stores are open. As for schools, studies are proceeding normally in the port but only partially in the areas of Bab ar-Raml, (Abu Samrah) and (As-Suway'ah). Schools are still closed in Al-Qubbah and At-Tabbanah. Also the Lebanese university branches in Al-Qubbah remain closed. In the township of (AL-Miyyah), north of Tripoli, the situation is calm. The coastal road linking Tripoli with 'Akkar is carrying normal traffic.

Meanwhile, the electricity and telephone maintenance workers continue to repair damage caused in Tripoli by the clashes.

ISLAMBOULI DEFENSE GROUP FORMED IN BEIRUT

LD191056 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 19 Feb (KUNA) -- A group calling itself "The Committee for the Defense of Khalid Islambouli", charged with the assassination of the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, was officially formed in Beirut Friday.

The group, in its statement number one delivered at KUNA office here, called for "an Arab and international campaign" to help alleviate the sentence of Islambouli.

Islambouli, an Egyptian Army officer, and few other colleagues shot-dead As-Sadat last Oct. 6th during a military parade marking the anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War.

The statement, which did not identify members of the group or its president, said his lawyers had contacted the committee and urged it to launch this campaign "To help lift some of the charges against Islambouli."

"The campaign must be launched quickly, because the trial will be closed this Feb. 22," the statement added without further elaboration.

ARMENIAN RADIO ON AL-HAWADITH INTERVIEW

CF221436 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanese Armenians in Armenian 1330 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH magazine published an interview with Comrade Hagop Hagopian, a leader of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia [ASALA], in its 12 February 1982 issue.

As we all know, Comrade Hagopian visited Beirut recently and held interviews with various newspapers and the Voice of Lebanese Armenians radio. ASALA called the Voice of Lebanese Armenians yesterday and informed us that the [word indistinct] interview issued in AL-HAWADITH contains [word indistinct] intentional mistakes, particularly in the reference made to Bashir al-Jumayil. Another mistake is related to the question of whether there are non-Armenian members in ASALA. Al-Hawadith wrote that the question was not answered.

ASALA asserts that no such question was asked and that it was fabricated by AL-HAWADITH to raise doubts among Armenians and Arabs. ASALA added that if such a question had been asked, the answer would have been very easy: there are absolutely no foreigners in our organization.

After these clarifications the ASALA leader also informed us that the political leaning of AL-HAWADITH is very clear. It is financed by Saudi Arabia, and it is clear that Saudi Arabia is a reactionary Islamic government that has good relations with Turkey. The ASALA leader also stated that ASALA had postponed the proposed interview with (?AL-HAWADITH) for a period of 1 month in order to study the matter and establish the political direction of AL-HAWADITH and what [word indistinct] it can do.

The ASALA leader informed us that ASALA contacted the magazine's office in Beirut. The director of the office has asked the army's forgiveness, particularly on the question of non-Armenian members in ASALA and the matter concerning Bashir al-Jumayil.

The director of AL-HAWADITH's office in Beirut stated that the appropriate corrections will be made and issued in the magazine's 26 February edition.

We will broadcast the recording concerned with the question about Bashir al-Jumayil and the reply given to it in tomorrow's program. The tape is supplied by ASALA.

ARMENIAN REVOLUTIONARY DETAILS 'SUCCESSES'

GF210418 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanese Armenians in Armenian 1330 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Fourth part of interview with Hagop Hagopian, a leader of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia -- Date, Place Not Given; Read by Announcer]

[Excerpts] [Question] Comrade Hagopian, the Armenians overseas have started to achieve political victories against the fascist Turkish government and its imperialist supporters. The international media have also started reporting about the Armenian cause and the Armenian people's rights after 60 years of delay. Imperialist countries such as France and Switzerland are releasing Armenian fedayeen. Moreover, the fascist Turkish leaders have started to howl and talk unwillingly about the rights of the Armenian people. Certainly these political victories were achieved by the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia [ASALA]. Could you expound on how you achieved these political victories in such a short time whereas no Armenian conservative party has achieved any success during the past 60 years?

[Answer] My son, we want to deal precisely with matters that concern us and at the same time be true to our principles and to our ASALA leaders and members. We want to have an honest and scientific approach toward our people in Soviet Armenia and overseas and toward our history. All Armenian parties have operated to serve their own interest. To date, they have indeed served only themselves.

The main problem is the party leaders who have never served the Armenian cause during the past 60 years and who continue to maintain the same attitude. What are the treacherous Armenian bourgeois leaders doing today. Each leader is undertaking arrangements to improve his and his family's situation. The Armenian cause and the liberation of Armenia are of no importance to these leaders. The situation of the humble Armenian citizen does not concern the bourgeois leaders. We have no problem whatsoever with the parties. The main obstacles are the bourgeois party leaders.

The Armenian leaders today die in big hospitals due to sickness. That sickness is the result of consuming excessive quantities of alcohol. They also die of heart attacks, the result of incurring losses in their business life. Has any Armenian leader died for the Armenian cause? After mentioning all this, how can we expect these leaders to strengthen the parties, while their only concern is their individual interests and the money their wives spend on clothes? The only concern of the Armenian leaders is to send their wives to European or U.S. beaches to rest because their wives are exhausted from undertaking the Armenian people's struggle.

What we state is the truth. It hurts us to state all this. However, all this is done for the sake of the Armenian cause. The main worry of a bourgeois Armenian leader today is how to get a dress for his wife from an international market. Unfortunately, the trip for buying these dresses is interpreted as serving the Armenian cause.

Naturally, these leaders could not and will not achieve any victories. Is there any leader who can say that he has served the Armenian people or the Armenian cause? The Armenian party leaders justify themselves by saying [words indistinct], whereas it is the party members who understand the Armenian cause and carry arms to defend the Armenian people. The only reason the Armenian people have never achieved a victory during the past 60 years is because of their bourgeois Armenian leaders.

It is also natural and correct that ASALA has achieved political and military victories during the past 7 years. It is very natural because we -- the leaders of ASALA -- never engage in bargaining. We lead our military operations personally. We have left our wives and children in order to serve the organization. We could have stayed beside our families, but serving the interests of the Armenian people is the principle of our revolution. We are convinced that our people have been oppressed.

We, the leaders of ASALA, stay beside our members and participate in transportation of arms, operations, training and battles. This is how we understand our duty and the meaning of the revolution. This understanding is not like one advocating sitting in warm houses. Naturally, we also know very well how to obtain the release of our prisoners. We never bargain and never yield. We rely on our strength and demand the release of our imprisoned members. We do not ridicule our people, even if they are weak, and we keep on struggling. This is how we obliged Switzerland to release our two members -- Suzy Mehserejian and Alec Yenikomuchian.

As you all know, we forced France to release Monte Melkonian and send him to Beirut in total safety. We threatened to destroy all French interests if our demands were not met. All this was no joke and the French Government knows it very well. The French Government asked for a bargain, but our answer was bombs and explosions, They claimed they could not send Monte Melkonian to Beirut because he was a U.S. national; but we imposed our will and thus succeeded. We, the Armenian people, are suppressed and our lands are occupied and if we rely on international law we will never achieve any results.

The bourgeois Armenian leaders do not support armed struggle. They want to establish good relations with various governments. They want to live a secure and peaceful life so that their interests are not harmed.

The French Government admitted it had deceived the four fedayeen of the (?van) operation and would not consider them as political prisoners. But due to the struggle of our organization, the French Government condescended after 4 months and considered our four fedayeen political prisoners. Moreover, it agreed to consider them as political refugees. This is political success and victory. This is how we understand the meaning of the revolutionary activity and this is how we execute it. Therefore, the secret of ASALA's victory is our honesty toward our people and the Armenian cause. ASALA's secret for victory is, as I said, to stay beside our fighters and struggle together without attaching importance to individual interests.

Armenian Interview Continues

GF221324 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanese Armenians in Armenian 1330 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Fifth part of interview with Hagop Hagopian, leader of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia -- date, place not given; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Question] Comrade Hagopian, when (Dimitriu Georgiu) [Monte Melkonian] -- was arrested by the French security police, the Orly organization began its attacks on French interests in order to force the French Government to release (Georgiu). The Tashnag leaders started to assail the operation of the Orly organization during the same period and defended the French government. They even assailed the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenian [ASALA]. Could you expound on the events that occurred at that time?

[Answer] The arrest of Monte Melkonian by the French authorities forced us to struggle against the French Government and all its officials. This was inevitable because it was not easy to remain silent and wait for the decision of the French Government.

We contacted the French Government and demanded Melkonian's release. We also stated the destination to which we wanted him sent. We threatened the French Government and contacted officials in the French Foreign Ministry. When Monte Melkonian was arrested we wanted to see the extent of the French Government's honesty toward our people's case. The mediator between ASALA and the French Government informed us that the latter supported the Armenian people and their case. After a month of delay, our leaders contacted the French Foreign Ministry again and demanded Melkonian's immediate release.

We received a phone call from Beirut headquarters informing us that Melkonian had been released. We were very pleased and really believed the French Government's words. But the next day we were informed through the media that Monte Melkonian had been arrested again at Orly Airport. We were totally surprised and decided to adopt measures against the French Government.

We have stressed several times and we stress again that the imperialist governments are never concerned about the interests of their own people. Therefore, how can we expect such governments to support the Armenian people and their cause.

If the French Government truly supported the Armenian people, then why did it try to gather information about our organization? It is because it wanted to terminate the existence of our organization and leave the Armenian people in their [word indistinct] situation. But our French Armenian people gathered in the streets and demonstrated against the treachery of the French Government. Leaders of the Armenian Federation held press conferences defending Monte Melkonian and requesting his release. Armenian religious leaders contacted high-ranking French officials. Finally the Armenian Orly organization began its attack on French interests.

After all this the international press and radio stations began referring to the struggle of the Armenian people. We can say that what the international media wrote about the Armenian people during the past 60 years is less than what it has written about Monte Melkonian. Did any Armenian leader during the past 60 years achieve any success comparable to what the Armenian revolutionaries are achieving at present? Did any Armenian leader ever impose the free will of the Armenian people without lowering themselves. [sentence as heard] If we direct these questions to the Armenian leaders, there is no doubt they will be ashamed. However, they will respond by stating that they have defended the Armenian people overseas and reared Armenian youths on revolutionary principles. With all certainty I can tell you that these leaders are hyprocrites. They have nurtured the Armenian youth by instructing them on how to use marijuana and other narcotics.

We know the students of such Armenian party instructors. The students who have established relations with the CIA, the FRG Government and Israel. We have the names of the Tashnag delegation that left Paris for Tel Aviv. We know the names of those who have trained in California to serve the CIA. We know the treacherous Armenian leaders who sell their people to the United States. For the sake of a few dollars they will even sell the Armenian cause as a whole.

We also have the names of those Armenian Conservative Party leaders who met secretly with the Turkish foreign minister in Switzerland in 1977. During this meeting the leaders of the fascist Turkish Government told the Armenian leaders that it was impossible for any Turkish leader to yield even an inch of land to the Armenians.

Did it ever occur to these Armenian leaders to hold a meeting with their party members before leaving for Switzerland? Of course not. The Armenian party leaders are not interested in what their party members think. They are concerned only with their own interests. The Armenian leaders have placed blinders on their followers so that they can gaze in only one direction. That is why the Armenian party members are concerned only with the wages they receive from the party.

The bourgeois Armenian party leaders will not last long. The Armenian people and Armenian youths will not remain silent and even the most insignificant member of the party will strike at the treacherous party leaders. We are very well informed of the treacherous plans of every party leader. We are also well aware of the plans of the Tashnag leaders and the measures they plan to adopt in order to strike at ASALA. We even know the details of those plans. In fact, we are waiting for them to move to realize their plans so that we may show them what they deserve.

The whole of the Armenian people support us. Therefore, the attitude of a number of [word indistinct] leaders is not important. They yell on French television about the Armenian revolutionaries. They write against the Armenian revolutionaries in Beirut and go on to kill a Turkish diplomat in Sydney in order to state that they are independent of ASALA. They killed the Turkish diplomat in Sydney only to strike at ASALA. They go to embassies and say they are not related to the Armenian revolutionaries and want to defend their cause by peaceful means. The peaceful means have [words indistinct] during the past 60 years. They preach peaceful means and exploit the names of the Armenian revolutionaries for their personal interest.

We stress that we side with our people and regard them above everything else. Our children, elderly people, religious leaders and our youths are above anything and constitute the basis of our revolution.

The Tashnag party exploited our name until 1978. It had threatened rich Armenians and collected money from them in our name. We have the names of those rich people in Beirut who have paid large sums to the Tashnag leaders in the name of ASALA. We never received a penny from rich Armenians until 1979. When this exploitation was exposed, the Tashnag leaders divided the money they had collected among themselves and ran away to the United States where they are currently engaged in the real estate business.

You treacherous, Armenian leaders, you must know that your betrayals have increased. You have become U.S. and Zionist agents. You are inciting Arab revolutionaries against us. This means that your end has come. We can uproot you from your houses any time we wish, but we do not want to tarnish the name of our revolution. The Armenian people will remove the dirty entities themselves and purify their ranks. They will undertake this responsibility in the very near future.

PRESS CONTINUES ATTACK ON NEW HABIB MISSION

JN261017 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Syrian newspapers continue their attack on Philip Habib's new mission in the Middle East. Damascus papers said the U.S. envoy's visit aims at weakening Syria's confrontation of Israel with the support of the Muslim Brotherhood group in the Syrian city of Hamah.

AL-AHMAR RECEIVES SOVIET, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS

JN251442 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 25 Feb (SANA) -- This morning Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received USSR Ambassador in Damascus Valdimir Ivanovich Yukhin.

Their talks centered on cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU and steps to implement the cooperation program between the two friendly parties.

Comrade al-Ahmar also received the Australian ambassador in Damascus, David George Wilson.

HAMAH GOVERNOR HARBAH INTERVIEWED BY TV

JN260638 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] The following is the full recording of the interview Syrian Arab television conducted with Hamah Governor Comrade Dr Muhammad Khalid Harbah yesterday evening. In this interview Dr Harbah condemned the crimes committed by the Muslim Brotherhood gang against the homeland and the citizens in implemention of the imperialist-Zionist schemes.

[Begin recording] During the early hours of Wednesday, 3 February 1982, and at about 0230 that day, we woke up to the sound of the mosques' loudspeakers instigating people to fight. It was clear that some sort of chaos was prevailing in the streets. Later I received several telephone calls. The first call was from our martyr Comrade 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Adi, Ba'th Party branch member. His wife called for help. I sent for two police cars, one of which came to my house since his house was about 200 meters from mine. The car was burned. The driver and two others entered my house and received first aid. Then I received another telephone call from the wife of our Comrade Riyad Jammal, secretary of the workers' branch. I learned afterward that they had killed our Comrade Yahya Jal'ut and his children and burned his house. They killed our female youth Comrades Sahar al-Kufi and Women's Union member Fatimah as-Saqqa. They also began to storm our comrades' houses one after the other. I also learned that our Comrade Riyad Jammal had resisted until the last bullet and killed more than one of them. I was told this by his wife.

I began to feel the situation was abnormal and required decisiveness. Therefore, he contacted one another and went to a security branch where we instructed our comrades by telephone to get to the nearest party offices. They arrived at the popular organizations with their weapons. The inhabitants of the Bab al-Qibli and Jisr al-Hawa suburbs arrived at the youth branch near the citadel and began to pursue them during the early hours. However, we learned that they began to burn the institutions. They gave vent to anger by looting and burning public sector institutions. They looted and burned our comrades' houses. Fires spread to the commercial markets. We sent fire engines, but they prevented them from getting through. They acted irresponsibly, savagely, barbarically, unchecked by conscience or manners. They were implementing their masters' schemes.

We met at a security branch and drew up a plan to pursue them. Our party comrades managed to get most of the comrades to the party branches. There were party comrades in the party offices to guard the party. Our comrades then began to take over intersections and embarked on pursuit and search operations. We began with the southwest of the city moving northward. They hid or fled from our comrades. When evening came, they were confined to one area, the Jisr ash-Shaykh area, after our comrades had managed to kill many of them. Next morning everything was over for good.

Our comrades have endured much because of them. They killed our comrades in the streets. We said that we could reply with bullets, but our manners are those of the Ba'th and we were brought up as responsible Ba'thists. We were patient and thus were inspired by our leadership's patience and by the manners of great leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party. We embodied this leader's ethics. However, they were so vile that decisive action had to be taken. This decisive action took place on the 2d day.

Our party organ is now determined not leave any of their traces in this city, which has suffered much from their actions. They wanted to implicate the entire city. They forced people to carry arms. They went to houses asking for the identity cards of the citizens, particularly of youths. They then tore them into pieces and burned them in an attempt to force these youths to carry arms.

This city has, in fact, shown great enlightenment. People did not get involved with them, except for some naive people who were misled by being told that the security branches had been occupied, that the party branch secretary, the police commander and the governor were killed and that my house was occupied. They killed those who refused cooperation. Moreover, they forced women to walk in front of them and go into their dens. They killed the women who refused to do so. They killed a woman called Ruqayyah as-Salim al-'Urayb only because she refused to go with them.

Now that this affair is over, the people of Hamah, the city of sacrifices, can distinguish those who behaved irresponsibly, savagely and treacherously from those who behaved responsibly and ethically. Our party, security and police took food and milk to children in every house. The people knew who looked after the city's inhabitants and who betrayed this city's interests.

They have given the city of Hamah much to put up with. We also have had much to put up with. They disrupted economic life for over 3 years. They used to kill people in rural areas merely because they were rural people. They wanted to create a wall of alienation between the city and its hinterland. They wanted to kill this city.

Recently we celebrated the prophet's birthday. Whenever I saw an unfamiliar crowd of people, I stopped to talk to them. I asked two questions: Why are the Muslim Brothers fighting? Are they really fighting for religion? If they are not fighting for religion, are they fighting for the poor? Are they fighting a class of people? I told them that if they are fighting for religion, have the five prayers been undermined and reduced to four? Has any of the five prayers' prostrations been omitted? Has a religious book been banned? Have we attacked a man of religion? Have we banned the building of mosques? They used to come to me asking for building materials for mosques. I used to agree to their demands immediately without condition. The director of religious endowments was present in the mosque where we were holding the [prophet's birthday] celebration. I said: This is the director of religious endowments, in whose hearing I say that mosques have been built in the Ba'th state, particularly after the corrective movement. I said that we have built more mosques in the city of Hamah than have been built since the foundation of this city. If they are fighting for another reason, such as for the poor, it is we who are building the institutions. It is the Ba'th state that built them, particularly after the corrective movement under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, who has given much to this city.

I would like to say that in 1980 we met with the president and asked for additional allocations outside the [budget] plan. We asked for 218 million Syrian pounds for a 4-year program. He immediately agreed. I have said on various occasions that the capital invested in the industrial sector alone was 14 billion Syrian pounds. Those working in this field know that the capital invested in the industrial sector in all of Syria up to 1960 was only 800 million Syrian pounds, which is less than 1 billion Syrian pounds. Investments in the industrial sector in Hamah Province alone amounted to 14 billion Syrian pounds. These investments resulted in the building of several factories and jobs for the unemployed. They materialized in the cement, porcelain, tire, steel, oil and sugar factories as well as in the poultry houses. These investments provided work. Hamah Province never before saw what it did in the last 10 years. It has gotten even more than the other provinces. It was cared for by the father leader, who has given it so much. Greetings to this great man and great leader.

I would like to thank the Hamah citizens for their enlightenment. They contacted us whenever they discovered a suspect element in a suburb or street near their houses. This helped our party comrades and security organs to destroy those vile people who terrified this city, killed women and children and burned the city and its commercial markets.

Finally, I extend greetings of thanks and respect to great leader Hafiz al-Asad. The citizens began to visit our offices and send cables after distinguishing those who look after them from those who kill them. They sent cables of support for the great party and great leader Al-Asad and greetings of love and gratitude for what the leader has given to this province and this country. The city of Hamah will always remain faithful to the father who has looked after it and loved it and its citizens. This city will remain faithful to its great party and great leader Al-Asad. [end recording]

HAMAH, ALEPPO SITUATIONS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE

NC251821 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] While efforts have been continuing on the local, regional and international levels to tackle the situation in Lebanon and to prevent any possible developments, particularly after the recent explosions in some Lebanese areas, the situation in Syria has continued to deteriorate, especially in the big cities of Hamah and Aleppo.

According to the latest reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian city of Hamah today came under concentrated shelling [qasf] simultaneously by warplanes and artillery. Losses in life as a result of the recent clashes there have reached several thousand dead and a large number wounded. At 0900 today, helicopters shelled the city quarters, while warplanes carried out covering operations. It has been reported in this regard that the roads leading to Hamah are closed except for a special one opened by Syrian forces laying a steel bridge to facilitate movement.

A number of military men and party members have been killed by the Muslim Brotherhood.

In Aleppo, two successive explosions took place yesterday in Al-Manshiyah locality, injuring a number of people and causing heavy material damage. A fire broke out at the Aleppo science exhibition in Sayf ad-Dawlah, destroying all its contents. A senior party official named 'Ali 'Abd al-'Aziz was assassinated in Aleppo the day before yesterday.

With regard to arrests of officers, it has been learned that a number of senior officers have been taken for questioning since the start of the clashes. It is not known whether they are still under arrest or not, because there has been no news about them since that time.

BA'TH PARTY CONDEMNS EUROPEAN JERUSALEM MEETING

JN260818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Feb 82

[From the press review]

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National Command has warned against the Council of Europe holding a meeting in Jerusalem. It called on Arab and European socialist and communist parties and political forces to denounce this meeting.

In two memorandums to these parties and forces, the National Command stressed that the convocation of this meeting covers up Israel's ambitions, gives legitimacy to its hostile expansionist policy and increases its intransigence and insistence on clinging to occupied Arab territories and disavowing Palestinian Arab people's rights.

SANA: JORDANIAN GROUP CONDEMNS PRO-IRAQ STANCE

JN252100 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1955 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 25 Feb (SANA) -- The National Democratic Bloc Forces in Jordan [Quwa at-Takattul ad-Dimuqrati al-Qawmi fi al-Urdun] have condemned the Jordanian regime's decision to enlist volunteers and form combat units to fight alongside the collapsing Iraqi regime. In a statement the group said that despite temptations offered by the Jordanian authorities, those who volunteered were limited only to prisoners, idlers and frequenters of cafes and theaters. The statement added that if the call was for the purpose of fighting Israel everybody would move to the battle in crowds.

The statement affirmed that the war declared by Saddam Husayn against the Iranian revolution is an attempt to extricate himself from domestic crisis. This war, the statement added, is in line with the declared U.S. war against the Iranian revolution.

EGYPT'S RETURN TO ARAB FOLD VIEWED FAVORABLY

TA251044 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Feb 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by special Cairo correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] The Israeli delegation headed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir currently visiting Cairo has learned about wide political activity among Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, intended to effect a rapprochement between them. Mr Shamir is to meet today with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and there is no doubt that he would like to examine the possible implications of this activity on the peace process. Mr Shamir believes that Egypt's returning to the Arab fold does not necessarily have to be at the expense of peace with Israel. On the contrary, he thinks that Egypt can serve as a bridgehead for additional Arab countries to join the peace process since it is the only Arab country that maintains contacts with Israel.

DISAGREEMENT ON LENGTH OF MUBARAK VISIT NOTED

TA251427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Our correspondent in Cairo, Shim'on Schiffer, has learned that in Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's talk with the Egyptian president, Muburak consented to come to Israel on 16 March for 1 day, but the foreign minister explained that Israel expects him to come for a longer state visit. This is why a date for the visit has not yet been set, even though it will take place, according to both Egyptian and Israeli sources, before the withdrawal from Sinai is concluded.

SHAMIR, EGYPT'S ALI HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

TA251634 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Report by political correspondent Gad Becker on the joint news conference in Cairo today]

[Text] Some 10 additional normalization points have today joined the dozens of points that had been put on paper before. Some of them are new, others represent implementations of prior agreements. As yet, even after the talk with President Mubarak, no date has been set for a presidential visit to Israel, nor is there agreement about its nature. It been proved again, and in public, that Israel and Egypt have completely different views about the autonomy and the solution of the Palestinian problem. Do these three components of Shamir's visit in Egypt have in them the means to dissolve the personal apprehensions and to remove what has been described as a fog around Egyptian-Israeli relations? This is difficult to say. At the same time, Shamir sums up the visit in a following statement:

[Begin recording -- in English] In conclusion, it is my conviction that in spite of differences of views that emerge from time to time, peace will continue, and with double strength, as time passes by. [end recording]

[Becker translates and continues] The Egyptian press continues to emphasize its questions about the solution of the Palestinian problem, and the differences of opinion are clear here. Minister Shamir constantly returns to the Camp David agreements and stresses that there is at least agreement on the continuation of the negotiations. Kamal Hasan 'Ali expresses clear opposition to Shamir's declared view about the existence of a Palestinian state in Jordan.

[Begin 'Ali recording -- in English] You know, it is not for Egypt or Israel to change the map of the world. For, Jordan is Jordan. Any other differences are to be discussed. [end recording]

[Becker translates and continues] 'Ali is also stating that Egypt will not give up a single centimeter of the Sinai's soil and that the differences of opinion about the border demarcation in Rafah or in Tabah are not a political matter, and they will be resolved only on the basis of technical data.

[Begin 'Ali recording -- in English] For if you mean that Egypt is stubborn, not giving 1 centimeter to anybody; yes we are stubborn. [end recording]

[Becker translates and continues] And what about the agreements on normalization? Those were achieved after long hours of extended deliberations. Finally, what is at issue is, first of all, the setting up of an Israeli academic center in Cairo. Egypt also agreed to enable Israeli businessmen to receive multientry permits to its territory. It has been agreed to try again to implement well-known past agreements: culture, trade with the public sector, easing of surface border crossing procedures. Yet another document is going to be filed in the normalization files, hoping for implementation.

It appears that the intensive talks with the heads of the Egyptian regime are likely to give a certain amount of assurance regarding a continued policy of peace on their part. All the Egyptian leaders reiterate the clear line of calm and continuity. I is difficult to say that the prime minister has abandoned his well-known apprenhensions but at the same time, members of the Israeli delegation said today that apart from caution, one should not automatically reject all the promises coming from Egypt.
Gad Becker, Cairo

POST REPORTS NORMALIZATION AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT

TA260630 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Feb 82 pp 1, 2

[Report from Cairo Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpts] Cairo -- Egyptian President Husni Mubarak declined yesterday to give Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir a date for his projected visit to Israel. But he left the normally sceptical Shamir firmly convinced that Mubarak and his colleagues are just as firmly committed to the peace principles as their predecessors were. Any Israeli disappointment over the date of the presidential visit was more than offset by Egyptian agreement to remove various obstacles to normalization.

On autonomy, however, the Egyptian leaders continued to keep their heels firmly dug in. Noting what he called "a strong Egyptian will to overcome obstacles to normalization," Shamir listed various advances made during his three-day visit. Former Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil who now heads the International Arab Bank, will soon come to Israel to discuss cooperation in financing development projects to benefit both countries.

The agreement to establish an Israeli academic centre in Cairo has been signed and will take effect immediately. Shamir called this an "unprecedented expression of rapproachement." Once the new commitments to facilitate passport, visa and travel procedures are implemented, he said, Egyptians wishing to go to Israel will find things much easier.

The governors of the two national banks are to meet next month to discuss facilitating financial transfers. Measures are to be taken to smooth the work of shipping companies Shamir said he had received commitments that the way will be open for public-sector companies in Egypt to trade both ways with Israel. Egyptian tourist firms will have no obstacles to arranging trips to Israel, he was told.

Multiple tourist visas will be available for business and tourism representatives as well as for lorry drivers, from March 10.

Employees of firms operating in both countries will be issued residents' visas according to lists submitted by each country. The agreed minutes of Shamir's talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali also cover smoother processing of travellers at the overland terminals, and further cultural exchanges. The minutes note that 'Ali raised the problem of the Coptic Church's claim to the Dayr as-Sultan Convent atop the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, seized by the Ethiopian church, and that Shamir said that a Supreme Court justice is studying the matter.

The minutes also record the Egyptian request to free certain security prisoners in Israeli prisons, and the Israeli reply that the appropriate authorities will shortly give their response. They note Shamir's invitation to 'Ali to visit Israel, and 'Ali's acceptance.

Shamir said at the briefing that next month will bring final agreement, to Israel's satisfaction, on the rate of fees to be paid by Israeli lorries crossing to Egypt. (The fees are to compensate Egypt for the cheap fuel available to the lorries on the Egyptian side, which would amount to increasing Israeli exporters' profits.) Direct phone dialling between Israel and Egypt will be instituted late in May, Shamir said. He conceded to a questioner that Egyptian trade unions and other elements still oppose normalization, and the government will not coerce them. But the leadership had the impression that such opposition to Camp David would wane with time. Mubarak did not take other initiatives on the Palestine issue seriously, Shamir believed. He had already ruled out the Saudi "Fahd plan" as a non-starter, without Israeli participation. The European Economic Community's Venice initiative had been mentioned only by Prime Minister Fuad Muhyi ad-Din, who had grumbled that European states had tried to pressure Egypt into changing its attitude to the Palestinians.

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS EGYPT 'CALMER'

TA251707 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he is returning to Israel calmer than before the beginning of his talks in Egypt. He has been convinced by the heads of the Egyptian regime, notably by President Mubarak, that the peace treaty with Israel will be honored in the future because, as his hosts have put it, this is the basic principle in Egypt's foreign policy in the region. Minister Shamir was briefing Israeli correspondents accompanying him on his visit to Cairo.

The foreign minister said the Egyptian president had told him that there is a development among Arab countries in the direction of Egypt's policy, and the day is not far off when other states will join the peace process. Minister Shamir said it was determined in his talk with Egypt's president that his visit to Israel will take place before the conclusion of the withdrawal, but details will be worked out in the near future.

SHAMIR VIEWS POST-SINAI RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA260740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will come to Israel in approximately 2 weeks at the head of the supreme committee for normalization affairs. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who returned from Cairo last night, said that in the course of his Egyptian counterpart's visit the solutions will be found for the border line demarcation in the areas of Rafah and Elat. Our reporter in Cairo, Shim'on Schiffer, talked with the foreign minister during the flight from Cairo, and asked him to describe relations between the two countries with the conclusion of the Sinai withdrawal.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] After numerous talks that I have had with almost the entire Egyptian top echelon, talks in which we tried to probe the relations that will exist between us after the withdrawal, that exist between us at present, in view of all the circumstances that are likely to change with the time, it is very difficult to give clear and definite answers to all these questions. It seems to me, however, that one thing is clear: The Egyptians, members of the Egyptian top echelons and, I think, also the better part of the Egyptian people are interested in maintaining peace with Israel because they are convinced that this is the most important Egyptian interest. They do not see any reason in the future that might justify a change in that position. Along that road of peaceful relations between Israel and Egypt, there will certainly be many problems, there will be numerous questions and differences of opinion; that will be a long and difficult road, but this will be a road of peace. That is my feeling.

[Question] One of the questions raised in Israel -- and we heard about it -- is why is, in fact, President Mubarak not supplying an answer regarding his visit in Israel. Why is he not ready to come to Jerusalem, why is this visit, or its date being delayed?

[Answer] When I came to Egypt, I was not faced with the problem of President Mubarak's visit. It may be presumed that by dint of the relations between us he will have to come to Israel in order to discuss with the prime minister all the subjects between us, and he will come. This is their decision and also a necessity. He will come. The details of the visit, its nature, its timing and all the other circumstances will yet be discussed in the future. I do not suggest, however, that this be regarded as a problem to be focused upon. [end recording]

PERES RESPONDS TO OFFER OF UNITY GOVERNMENT

TA260950 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Feb 82 p 2

[Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres' reply to Prime Minister Menahem Begin's offer that the Alignment join Likud in a national unity government]

[Text] Dear Menahem, I gratefully acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 24 February 1982.

I will not address myself to those parts of your letter where you take issue with various reports published in the press, but it is my duty to correct you on one factual matter that appears toward the close of your letter. Contrary to what you wrote, I did not suggest holding a "joint meeting of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee;" rather I suggested holding "a joint meeting of representatives [last word in boldface] of the two committees." Thus there is no talk of 21 members going to the United States, and as far as I am concerned it would be enough to have two or four representatives -- which is still less than the six you had suggested -- and serves to save foreign currency even more than your suggestion.

As for a national unity government, you expect the "Alignment to announce that it is ready to embark on talks on this issue" assuming that "the Alignment supports the idea of autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza as agreed upon at Camp David." I must point out that it was the Alignment that suggested autonomy and that it was not the Alignment that agreed to sign a document calling for "recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and its justifiable demands, too." The Alignment voted for the peace agreement with Egypt not because of [last two words in boldface] of its conditions, but despite [last word in boldface] them. The Alignment understood, for example, that the moment you had agreed during your meeting with As-Sadat in Jerusalem to withdraw to the international border and give up the Rafah approaches and Sharm Ash-Shaykh as well as the settlements and the airfield, there would be no American or Arab that would accept anything less than that. This has become a political reality that only the blind can ignore.

You know that we have severely criticized the way you and your government conducted the negotiations with Egypt -- both in regard to the Sinai as well as in regard to the autonomy. As the opposition, which itself does not conduct the negotiations, we were faced with the choice of either voting for peace (and the conditions stipulated in it as worked out by the government), or against peace. We decided that we are not in opposition to peace and that we would not undertake the responsibility to torpedo peace.

Nearly 3 years have already elapsed since the Camp David agreements were signed. Autonomy is still nothing more than a plan on paper, with serious differences of opinion precluding the possibility of it being realized. We have approached you with an offer to accelerate the autonomy negotiations and conclude them before April 1982 -- the date for the evacuation of the Sinai, since after that date the chance for softening the Egyptian position will decrease. On the ohter hand, there exists the danger that the Israeli Government will remain without a plan, with world attention transferred to the Palestinian problem and with the danger that more and more will support the PLO position while Israel will find itself pretty much isolated.

Our view was not accepted, and in the absence of an autonomy agreement, the disagreement between us over the future and essence of the State of Israel -- turning from a Jewish state into a potential binational state -- has deepened. Those territories contain 1.3 million Arabs who do not wish to be annexed to Israel and whose joining Israel, even if only gradually, would only lead to the growth of a minority which -- given its high birth rate -- might put in jeopardy the Jewish and democratic character of Israel as well as its Zionist destiny.

It pains me to note that for 2 years now a negative balance has emerged between immigration to the country and emigration from it. Nor are we certain that indeed everything is being done to improve the absorption processes or to increase the attraction of immigrants, just as much as your policy has failed to combat the problem of emigration.

Like you, we too are aware of Israel's security problems, and this is why we believe no foreign army should cross the Jordan River or encamp in the area stretching between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean. But the danger not only lurks from what is presently happening -- or what might in the future -- in Judaea and Samaria, it also depends on what is taking place east of there. It is not only cannons that are dangerous, but also aircraft. It is not only the PLO that is dangerous, so also is the creation of a well armed eastern front, whose forward base will be Jordan. This is very dangerous. Therefore political ways should be found to extract Jordan from the arms of a militant Soviet Union and not only rely on deployment in the area or exclusively on the arms balance of power. In our view, Israel should urge Jordan to join the negotiating table, and call on the United States and Egypt to also add their voice in urging Jordan to turn toward peace. We believe this stands a chance, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242, or on the basis of an agreed autonomy plan. It stands no chance however on the basis of the annexation of the entire area -- whether de facto or de jure -- to Israel.

We believe that the policy you have followed could isolate Israel and that it may find itself in danger of severance from the sources of supply that are vital for it.

A government must have a policy, and shaping a policy precedes the establishment of a Cabinet. How then can we jointly establish a government when you are negating our policy and when we can see that the policy you are advocating -- even on the issue of autonomy -- is unfeasible?

I must add, although with a heavy heart, that the economic policy being implemented by your government similarly causes us great concern. Hundreds of agricultural enterprises are fighting for their existence. Important industrial branches are in a state of distress worse than we have ever before experienced. The public services are falling apart and our nation's productivity is on the wane. The national debt has increased immeasurably, endangering our political as well as economic independence. The social welfare and educational budgets have shrunk and the development budget -- the care for tomorrow -- hardly exists.

You believe you are pursuing your political and economic path the right way. I believe your way is wrong.

I also believe that this is why you have never approached the Alignment directly. You have made do with an appeal through other personalities in order to create the unrealistic impression that agreement can be reached -- whereas the possibility was not there.

We have not heard that the Likud under yourself agrees to appeal to Jordan to negotiate the creation of a Jordanian-Palestinian framework in which the Palestinian problem could be solved and continue the peace process while guaranteeing that Israel remains a strong Jewish state in secure expanses between the Jordan and the sea. Nor have we heard that you are prepared to avoid annexing 1.3 million Arabs against their wishes and in so doing endanger the fundamental Israeli goals. All of us have matured sufficiently to want more than headlines, which rather than clarify matters actually blur their real content. I therefore regard your approach -- in its form and in its content -- as a move which although not forbidden in relations between a government and an opposition, may have an echo, but lacks the voice.

The difference that currently exists between us on matters of policy, economic policy, social affairs and the current balance of power in the Knesset cannot justify our deserting our alternative course for the sake of being in a government headed by you who carry out your policy.

Sincerely, Shim'on Peres.

Begin's Response

Dear Shim'on,

I gratefully acknowledge receipt of your letter of 2 Adar 5742 (25 February). I read your letter carefully. Let us leave aside the dispute. Its time will come.

I gathered from your long letter that the Alignment has decided to continue to serve the nation as a parliamentary opposition. I can do nothing but wish you success in fulfilling this important national and democratic role.

Respectually and with best wishes, Menahem Begin.

ALIGNMENT AGREES TO SEND DELEGATION TO U.S.

TA251704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The Labor Party endorsed by a clear majority Mr Peres' letter. In deliberations preceding the vote, Mr Peres said he had written that there is no point in discussing the establishment of a unity government before its policy is discussed. Neither does he see common ground between the Likud and the Alignment regarding the situation prevailing in the state.

Also the institutions of MAPAM convened to discuss Mr Begin's proposal, knowing full well that they will reject it. MAPAM Secretary Victor Shem-tov welcomed the Labor Party resolution, saying it proves the Alignment's degree of consolidation as well as its desire to present an alternative to the Likud.

On the other hand, Mr Peres has informed the Labor Party that an agreement has been reached to send to Washington a delegation on behalf of the two large factions in the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, to explain Israel's objection to the supply of modern weapons to Jordan. The objective is for members of the delegation -- two or three from each fraction -- to meet with the U.S. Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee. Mr Peres said the Knesset committee chairman, Dr Ben-Elisar, accepted the Alignment's suggestion to dispatch a smaller delegation in order to save money.

BEGIN SAID NOT RULING OUT EARLY ELECTIONS

TA252002 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The prime minister is not ruling out Knesset elections in November, our correspondent has been told by a source in the prime minister's office. The Labor Party's decision to reject Mr Begin's proposal to set up a national unity government was received with disappointment at the prime minister's office this evening. Our correspondet, Yoram Ronen, reports from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem:

A few minutes after the reception here of Shim'on Peres' letter, the prime minister replied in a brief letter. Up to this evening, the possibility of earlier elections in November had not been ruled out by the prime minister's office here. The prime minister even said quite often during the last few weeks that should TAMI and Agudat Yisra'el continue their demands and pressures beyond the limits set by the coalition agreement, he will not hesitate to hold elections and strengthen the Likud. It appears this evening that elections in November are still possible, but so is the continuation of the present government possible. TAMI and Agudat Yisra'el have been deterred by the talks about early elections, in which they have no interest. The Telem faction has begun probing the possibility of joining the government coalition.

TELEM OPENS NEGOTIATIONS TO JOIN COALITION

TA260611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] It may well be that the Telem faction will join the coalition even before the withdrawal from Sinai is concluded, reports our correspondent Amnon Nadva. Yesterday, functionaries of MK Mordekhay Ben Porat's Telem faction met and recommended that the faction open negotiations to join the coalition. In the last 10 days, the prime minister and justice minister have repeatedly met with Telem leaders to examine possibilities of coopting them to the government. At the same time, Ben Porat talked also with Alignment representatives, including Shim'on Peres. If Telem indeed joins the coalition, the government will have the backing of 63 Knesset members.

DETAILS OF GOLAN HEIGHTS SITUATION REPORTED

TA251249 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Four Druze towns on the Golan Heights have been closed off by military order. Northern front commander, Gen Amir Drori, issued the order late last night as the general strike in the villages entered its 12th day. With more details, Jerry Cheslow.

[Cheslow -- live in studio] The order went into effect at 0600 hours [0400 GMT] this morning when army vehicles with loudspeakers drove through the streets announcing that the towns were closed, that entry and exits were forbidden. This followed the cutoff of all telephone links to the four Golan towns last night. The only residents allowed out were workers. The military spokesman said the order was for security reasons, but a source close to the efforts to settle the 12-day-old strike told me that the closure was partly to stop Israeli leftists from entering the area. This, because they are said to be bringing in supplies and inciting for a continuation of the protests against the extension of Israeli law to the region. In fact, before the order was issued, the RAKAH communists had planned to hold a demonstration tomorrow in Majdal Shams, the largest Golan Druze town.

The action follows a late-night meeting between 27 Druze leaders and the interior ministry official responsible for the north, Yisra'el Koenig, in Majdal Shams. At that session, the Druze reiterated their refusal to end the strike until Israel rescinds its law from their town.

But Israeli sources claim to have seen a crack in the strike front in that some of the Druze at the meeting had accepted Koenig's contention that religion had been used as a tool by the pro-Syria group to impose a ban on Israel supporters. Koenig asked the leader to call off the strike and the ban. He promised that no Golan Druze would be drafted into the army, none would be forced to accept Israeli citizenship, and that Israel had no intention of expropriating their land or water resources.

Israeli officials at the session said they ran into a mass of misinformation, spread by the pro-Syria camp, that Israel was planning to expropriate Druze homes. The Druze and Koenig agreed to meet again on Sunday. Meanwhile, two more leaders of the pro-Syria group have been placed under 3-month administrative detention. This brings the number of Golan Druze jailed in connection with the strike to eight. Five of them today sent appeals through their lawyer to Amnesty International, claiming to be prisoners of conscience.

GOLAN LEADERS CONTACT 'REJECTIONIST FRONT'

TA251345 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1320 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Nabulus, 25 Feb -- Golan Druze leaders have recently held contacts with some Judaea and Samaria "rejectionist front" supporters. They even met several times with people described as supporters of the national guidance committee, especially after the Knesset decided to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights. As will be recalled, the supporters of the "rejectionist front" in Judaea and Samaria are likewise identified with the Syria-backed terrorist organizations.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria notes that the Golan Druze leaders, among them some who are currently in administrative detention, wished to coordinate positions with the Judaea and Samaria "rejectionist front" activists for the purpose of propaganda, and from time to time even issued announcements on behalf of the local public figures expressing support for the Druze in the struggle against the application of Israeli law to the Golan.

DRUZE LEADERS SAID READY TO SETTLE STRIKE

TA260549 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Israeli authorities in the Golan will be considering favorably requests by Druze to go to work in Israel, despite the orders closing off the villages. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the Druze clergymen have revoked the ban imposed on members of the Druze community on going to work in Israel or opening their businesses, and cancelled the threat of a religious boycott as well. Our correspondent says this has been made clear to the director of the Druze department in the Religious Affairs Ministry in a talk with the clergy. Our correspondent says they are now seeking a way to settle the conflict with the government, but organizers of the strike among the leftists and pro-Syrian elements promise to exert social pressure against violators of their instructions.

The head of the philanthropic organizations in Judaea and Samaria, Amin Al-Khatib, instructed the associations to stop soliciting contributions for the Druze in the Golan, after the central command limited the movements of Khatib and one of his colleagues, forbade the fund raising and confiscated the money already collected. The head of the committee for solidarity with the Druze villages, who serves also as the committee spokesman, claimed last night that contrary to the announcement of the Meqorot water company that it had only reduced the supply of water to Majdal Shams due to a debt, the water supply was actually cut altogether. The committee approached the UN Secretary General to intercede with the Government of Israel to revoke its measures against the Druze.

OFFICIALS SUGGEST GIVING MAJDAL SHAMS TO SYRIA

TA261048 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Feb 82 p 2

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] Senior security officials have been considering a suggestion raised by civilian officials to cut off the Druze village of Majdal Shams from Israel and actually annex it to Syria.

Those who raised the proposal have said that most of the instigatory elements who have caused the Golan Druze strike reside in that village, which is adjacent to the border. Cutting it off from Israel would subsequently contribute to calming the spirits in the other Druze villages on the Golan Heights. In addition to this, it would make it clear that the Golan Law notwithstanding, Israel is prepared to show flexibility on the territorial issue in this region, which might help Israel's foreign relations.

According to the proposal, the village would be encircled by a security fence with the regional IDF outposts watching what is happening there. The local inhabitants would be allowed to move frely only to Syria and back. They would be permitted to market their agricultural produce only to Syria and to work only inside Syria.

This is an intriguing suggestion, which will probably be brought before additional officials for discussion.

POST POLL SHOWS MAJORITY FAVOR GOLAN LAW

TA250711 Jerusalem POST in English 25 Feb 82 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv -- Two-thirds of the public approve the extension of Israel law to the Golan Heights, and a third are against the move. But opinions were more evenly divided on the question of whether Israel law should be extended to Judaea and Samaria. This emerged from a Jerusalem POST poll conducted by Modi'in Ezrahi Institute of Research among 1301 adults at the end of last month.

To the question "in your opinion, was it justified to extend Israel law to the Golan?" The replies were: 66.4 percent yes, 27.3 percent no and 6.3 percent undecided. Institute director Sarah Shemer repoted that the democraphic profile showed that support for the Golan Law was drawn from all strata of the population, with a preponderance of Likud voters. But this consensus collapsed over the second question: "Are you for or against the extension of Israel law to Judaea and Samaria?" The answers were: 47.3 percent for, 42.9 percent against, and 9.8 percent undecided.

STUDENTS MOVE TO YAMIT TO PROTEST WITHDRAWAL

TA261032 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 82 p 2

[Text] Some 50 students, led by Tzahi Hanegbi, former student association chairman, invaded empty apartments in Yamit yesterday, and declared their intention to stay there.

It has been learned that members of the Stop the Withdrawal From Sinai movement are keeping tabs on the apartment situation in the town, and every flat that is being vacated is immediately seized by them to be filled with people coming from the north.

The withdrawal opponents reportedly intend to increase in the near future the flow of visitors into Yamit. Mr Hanegbi said the arrival of 1,000 students from various campuses before the end of March is being planned.

MINISTRY ASKS U.S. TO TURN LOAN INTO GRANT

TA241055 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Feb 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by military correspondent Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Israel has recently asked the United States to change a $240 million loan into a grant. The money is earmarked for the completion of the airfields being built by U.S. firms in the Negev. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon made the request to the administration in Washington. Recently concluded calculations showed that the completion of the two Negev airfields will now require $32 million more than was originally budgeted. Israeli experts say that in the future this figure will double.

By the terms of the Camp David accords, the two Negev airfields, 'Uvda, in Biq'at 'Uvda, and Ramon, at Ramat Matred, are being built by U.S. firms. A grant of $800 million was allocated for their construction along with a loan of $240 million. Already a year ago the Defense Ministry's airports directorate estimated that the final cost would be $65 million in excess of the budget. According to recently completed calculations, the deviation at this stage totals $32 million. Israeli experts say that with meticulous management the planned budget could have been adhered to. The Defense Ministry's project management has in the past warned that the budget would be exceeded. According to the final timetable, there will be no postponement in the airfields' operational capability as only 12 percent of the facilities will remain to be completed.

FATAH TERRORIST CELLS IN W. BANK UNCOVERED

TA251729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Security forces have uncovered a Fatah terrorist cell consisting of Jerusalem and Nabulus residents. The IDF spokesman said one member of the cell, an east Jerusalem resident, admitted under interrogation that he had passed on handgrenades to the cell in Hebron. Its members have been arrested and they admitted to having perpetrated sabotage deeds in Jerusalem. He also admitted that he transferred sabotage materiel to a resident of a refugee camp in Nabulus district. That man had also been arrested by the security forces. The sabotage materiel has been found following that man's interrogation. The security forces are continuing their investigation.

OAU MEETING: W. SAHARA REMAINS, TUNISIA RETURNS

NC251426 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 25 Feb (AFP) -- Mauritius withdrew but Tunisia returned to the session of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers here today as the row over the surprise admission of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) continued to rage. Mauritius suspended its participation in the conference for the same reasons as the eleven other states that have done so since Monday -- that the admission of the SADR, formed by the Polisario guerilla movement fighting Morocco for control of Western Sahara, was a violation of the OAU charter.

Tunisia, which pulled out on Wednesday "so that African unity can be restored" did not explain its return but received warmest congratulations from council Chairman Archie Mogwe, the foreign minister of Botswana. A dozen countries have now walked out of the 38th session in protest at the SADR admission, while two more -- Gabon and Somalia -- have remained but disassociated themselves from the decision. Meanwhile the flag of the SADR -- black, white and green with a red triangle at the left edge and a crescent and a star in the middle -- was expected to be formally raised in front of Africa Hall later today.

The conference went back into closed session today to hear and adopt the report of the OAU liberation committee. The only intervention on the Western Sahara question mentioned in a press briefing by OAU spokesman Peter Onu came from Nigeria. The Nigerian delegate said his country would have preferred the council to have taken no steps that would "prejudice the work" of the OAU implementation committee on Western Sahara. "But we have been overtaken by events", he added, "and the SADR is here with us, seated by our side". The delegate said he prayed and hoped that the Western Sahara problem "would settle down quickly", after reiterating that the Polisario would be the first to recognize the Nigeria had given it its sympathy from the very beginning.

Mr Onu said Botswana had also raised the question of the recent alleged kidnapping by South African police of Peter Lengene, a black South African activist granted refuge in Gaborene. Botswana said Pretoria had remained adamant to its demands for the release and return of Mr Lengene. The council was expected to consider the matter and decide the next step to be taken later today.

During debate on the report of the liberation committee, Paul Lusaka, president of the UN council for Namibia, accused South Africa of responsibility for the deadlock in the search for a solution to the Namibian problem. Mr Lusaka said Pretoria had consistently blocked all efforts aimed at finding a solution for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435. He also believed an impasse had been reached in current negotiations between the Western contact group of five on the one hand and the six frontline states, Nigeria, Kenya and the Southwest Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) on the other.

LE SOLEIL TERMS SDAR SEATING 'DANGEROUS'

AB251512 Paris AFP in French 1406 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Dakar, 25 Feb (AFP) -- The SDAR's admission into the OAU is at the same time an "institutional coup d'etat," "an irrelevance of the OAU," and the result of the "electoral maneuvers of the organization's secretary general," writes the editorial columnist of the Dakar daily, LE SOLEIL. In order to be recognized, the SDAR has to be accepted only by the conference of the heads of state. Moreover, with Tuesday's "stroke of force," the settlement of the conflict is not for tomorrow. Within the framework of the measures adopted in Nairobi, it would have been more logical for the OAU to use a different consideration to justify the holding of a referendum within the organization for the SDAR's self-determination, the paper writes. "One cannot also analyze this evolution of the SDAR problem without linking it with the renewal of the term of office of the secretary general, who in this case, acts as if he preferred reelection to the detriment of the institution. This constitutes a dangerous possibility which can lead to explosion within the OAU," the paper finally concludes.

TUNISIA

'CORRECTION OF RELATIONS' WITH LIBYA HOPED FOR

LD251210 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0807 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Ad-Dawhah, 25 Feb (KUNA) -- In an interview published here today, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali expresses the hope that the current visit to Tunisia by Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdafi will result in a correction of the course of relations between the two countries taken since the 1972 Jerba declaration [as received].

In the interview published by the Qatari paper AR-RAYAH, Mr Mzali described Libya's objection to Tunisia's joining CAPEC as "simple in comparison with the problem of the continental shelf." Mr Mzali expressed his confidence that the problems now existing between Libya and Tunisia"may be resolved on the basis of work to ensure a complementary union between the two countries, considering that a merger-type union belongs to future generations."

He described relations between his country and Algeria as "in good shape" and said that "he agrees with Algeria that a solution to the problem of Western Sahara can be reached only in the framework of the OAU and a referendum in the Sahara which the United Nations could organize." He added that "as soon as the problem of the Western Sahara is resolved a GCC-type unity of the Arab Maghreb will become easier."

Mr Mzali expressed his pessimism over the current Arab situation, saying that "the dangers imposed by the Zionist presence must push us toward solidarity by which means we can test our friends." He said that Arabs should give current Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian politicians enough time to sort themselves out, and warned that dealing with Egypt with more defiance and isolation "might drive President Mubarak into following As-Sadat's example and lying face down even more before the Zionists." But Mr Mzali rules out the Arab League's return to Cairo "so long as the Israeli flag flies over it."

LIBYA'S AL-QADHDHAFI MEETS WITH INTELLECTUALS

LD250958 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Tunis, 25 Feb (JANA) -- The brother leader of the revolution met this evening [as received] with a group of Tunisian intellectuals, writers, university professors and men of letters in an intellectual dialgue on a number of Arab issues. The meeting was held at the leader's residence in AL-Marsa,in the presence of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, Minister of Culture Bechir Ben Slama, the chairman of the Union of Tunisian Writers and men of letters.

The leader began his talk by noting the deteriorating Arab situation. He said the Arab nation is now passing through a period of decay and retreat on all fronts, together with a horrible humiliation as a result of the enemy's high-handedness toward this nation and as a result of his successive victories over the Arab nation.

The leader stressed that Arab culture is suffering the same crisis and fate as the other fronts, a matter that reflects the disgraceful situation of the Arab nation. The leader called on the writers, intellectuals and university professors to take the initiative and to explain the tragedy experienced by the Arab nations, to explode the Arab situation and to break into the wall of fear imposed on the Arab mssses.

The leader urged Arab intellectuals, writers and men of letters to sponsor this issue and make it plain, stressing that the Arab nation is capable of taking its place in the sun and deserves to stand with the states of the world.

He invited Arab writers to explain the grave accusations against Arab rulers who are now in this nation's dock of history, and who have turned the masses of the Arab nation into harems so that they may be the sultans of these harems. These rulers have appointed themselves as guards of the Zionist enemy, and have reserved the Arab nation's potential for their own selfish individual interests. The brother leader asked that such rulers should be exposed before the Arab masses.

The brother leader explained that U.S. imperialism has spiritually colonized the Arabs, and that no Arab state has ever stood up to the United States militarily, except the Jamahiriyah which confronted the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Gulf of Sidra. He said the Jamahiriyah is a free state fearing only God, and it has its rights and its own will.

The leader said the Arab nation is in need of an ideology that would save it from the decadence into which it has drifted. He said the jamahiriayh has put forward the international world theory, carried by the Green Book, as a new ideology that does not believe in transitory stages but believes that the will of man is capable of overcoming stages and of achieving results; an ideology through which the Arab masses would proceed to underline their identity and fulfill their human nature. He said: We must hold aloft the slogan of popular revolution and incite the masses to ensure their own victory and to be in control of their potential, because man can be happy only if he is free and because in the fulfillment of needs lies freedom and in freedom lies happiness.

He stressed that what is happening in literature now is a falsification of will and a forgery. He said men of letters are falsifying the will of the masses as a result of fear because authority, wealth and arms are not in the hands of the masses and because the force of exploitation is the only one to have both authority and decision.

He underlined the need to liberate the workers from the yoke of wage-earning by enabling them to move from the state of being wage earners to that of partners. He pointed out that the conditions of exploitation witnessed by the world today is a struggle between the deprived majority and the minority which controls the wealth of society under cover of the unjust laws now in force in the world. He said the popular revolution would enable the masses to achieve their own victory and secure equality, happiness and freedom.

He stressed that the society of the masses is a model society, the alternative to other societies. In the society of the masses, authority, wealth and arms are to be found in the hands of the people; in such a society oppression and exploitation by government and rulers is ended. It also means the end of the falsification of will because there is no more control over the people, and the people become their own controllers. He stressed the question of exploiting religion to attain power, explaining that such practices damage the Islamic religion and are a harmful phenomenon. He said the masses call for an Islam free from ideologies. Replying to remarks and questions by some intellectuals on earlier attempts at unification, he said such experiences should not be considered as a failures but as moves toward a comprehensive union, a unionist asset and a strong base for Arab unity. He added that the jamahiriyah is now proposing a unity of the masses in which the Arab citizen becomes the master and makes the decisions, and where the human nature of the Arab man can be fulfilled.

BOURGUIBA, MZALI TALK WITH AL-QADHDHAFI

LD251728 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Tunis, 25 Feb (JANA) -- Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia held a meeting at noon today which was also attended by the Tunisian prime minister, Mohamed Mzali.

Agree To Improve Relations

LD252128 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba had talks again today with Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on bilateral relations and on Arab, African and international conditions.

The two leaders have decided to overcome all the blemishes that have bedevilled their relations in the past and all the difficulties that have impeded the course of normal relations between them. This meeting was preceded by a working session attended from the Tunisian side by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi and [name indistinct]; and from the Libyan side by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, and Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, the secretary of the People's General Committee for Economy.

TRIPOLI ON AL-QADHDHAFI SPEECH TO PARTY CADRES

LD252222 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The brother commander of the revolution this evening met with party cadres in Tunisia at the Tunis Palace of Conferences in the presence of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, Interior Minister Driss Guiga and a number of Tunisian Government officials.

Beginning his speech to the Tunisian youth, the brother commander expressed his gratitude at having this opportunity to hold this faternal meeting. He expressed his hope for further meetings between the masses of both fraternal countries, as they will help thaw the ice of regional difference that were created by imperialism, which works to consolidate its policy of divide-and-rule. Because of the narrow regional policy, imperialism had almost succeeded in dominating the region piecemeal.

The brother commander pointed out that the battle has continued since the crusades between the Arab nation and its enemies. He said that the enemy is grasping the opportunity provided by inter-Arab divisions to achieve gains for itself at the expense of the Arab nation.

He pointed out that all the attempts being made by imperialism are to insure its continued domination of the Arab nation and thereby serve its interests. Imperialism has been working to consolidate these interests to guarantee its survival.

The brother commander said that the crusades are still continuing. He referred in this context to the flagrant challenge posed by the U.S. 6th Fleet, which represents the crusades but in a new attire and which has been waging a 10th crusade against Arabism and Islam in order to deepen the inter-Arab rift and consolidate regionalism and make the Arab nation have doubts about itself and its existence and thereby fragment it into a number of nations.

In this regard, the brother commander stressed the need for Arab unity so that this nation can feel its way toward the building of an Arab force by which it can face up to its common enemy which continues to deepen division and regionalism and which tries to destroy the Arab entity and make the Arabs feel strangers to each other.

The brother commander affirmed the jamahiriyah's readiness to enter into any unifying move which would bring about Arab unity and lead the Arab nation toward liberation and progress.

He said that we consider ourselves as soldiers siding with whoever leads the Arab nation toward unity, liberation, progress and the liberation of Palestine.

The brother commander said that we are prepared to accept any unity, political or economic, which would realize the ambitions and aspirations of the Arab masses. Any joint Arab action, he said, will constitute a phase of the march toward Arab unity. He affirmed that this unity must have an economic content which would bring direct benefits to the Arab citizen.

The brother commander explained to the Tunisian youth the pioneering human principles contained in the Green Book underlining in particular the dogmas that the house belongs to he who lives in it and that there are no servants but partners and that in the need lies freedom and in freedom lies happiness, all authoritiy and wealth and arms are in the hands of the people and there is no proxy on behalf of the people and representation is an act of charlatanry. He said that nobody opposes these dogmas because they liberate man's needs and help to realize his aspirations.

The brother commander explained the way the armed people work, affirming that the responsibility for defending the homeland rests with all citizens, as there is no proxy in death. He said that the term "armed people" does not mean armed anarchy but the training of the masses so that they can carry arms in defense of their gains and their homeland.

A meeting was held this evening at the As-Saadah Palace at Al-Marsa between the brother commander of the revolution and Tunisian Prime Minister Brother Mohamed Mzali. The meeting was attended by a number of Tunisian Cabinet ministers. A meeting was held at the republican palace in Carthage between the brother commander and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO BE DRAWN UP WITH LIBYA

LD252316 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The brother commander of the revolution yesterday afternoon [25 February] held a working session with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali in presence of the liaison secretary for the foreign affairs and secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs from the Libyan side and the ministers of foreign affairs, the interior, planning, economic affairs and social affairs and the minister of civil service from the Tunisian side. The meeting discussed ways to bolster cooperation between the jamahiriyah and Tunisia in various fields. It was decided at the meeting to form a joint committee to meet tomorrow to prepare minutes of an agreement to bolster cooperation and the common fate of both peoples.

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI EXPLAINS CABINET RESHUFFLE

EA251420 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi had today announced a major Cabinet reshuffle. Two new ministries have been reorganized, bringing the total number of ministries to 27. Changes affecting assistant ministers and permanent secretaries have also been announced.

Making the announcement, President Moi said that emphasis has been given to such important matters as a clear assignment of responsibility, avoidance of duplication of responsibility and proper allocation of government work so that it is distributed in a manner which does not lead to overloading of some government ministries or departments.

Stressing the need to improve the government machinery, the president said that all public servants, especially those in statutory boards and corporations, must recognize the need for team spirit, loyalty, dedication and commitment to hard work so that the efficiency of public service is promoted steadily as the nation develops and its economy and social life become more complex.

Emphasizing the importance of efficiency in all government departments, the president reiterated that he would not hesitate to dismiss any public servant who proves unable to do his or her work properly and effectively.

The president said that in order to ensure that the machinery of the government is efficient so that it remains ahead of the previous economic and social problems and that it enables Kenyans to seize economic opportunities as they arise, there is a need to review its efficiency from time to time [sentence as heard].

UGANDA

PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CONDEMNS ARMED ATTACK

EA251228 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The Uganda Peoples Congress [UPC] Secretariat has issued a statement strongly condemning the attack on Kampala by the disorderly forces representing those advocated violence in Uganda. These men of violence, said the statement, must learn that they will never win the hearts of the people of this country. The UPC will fight to ensure that the people of Uganda remain solid against the advocates of tyranny and dictatorial rule.

The UPC Secretariat expressed concern about these foreign interests who provide sanctuary, material and moral support to the minority of Ugandans that are bent on causing chaos in the country. It is obvious from the extent of coverage of this attack in the foreign news media, noted the statement, that they must have had prior knowledge of the events to follow. It said these foreign interests must be assured of the determination of Ugandans to defend themselves and are resolved to ensure that the parliamentary democratic method of government which Ugandans have accepted will continue. It regretted that these interests should seek to impose violence upon us.

The UPC Secretariat gave assurances that the nationalist and internationalist perspective of the UPC policy will continue, regardless of the support that our opponents obtain from certain foreign quarters. The struggle of Ugandans to maintain peace in Uganda cannot be daunted, it said. It called upon the international community to assist in this effort by denying facilities to those who are bent on violence.

The statement expressed UPC gratitude and congratulations to members of the Uganda National Liberation Army for the work they have done in giving the attacking forces the thrashing they deserve and assured them of its support in their efforts to defend Uganda and the democratic government which commands the respect of the people of Uganda.

BENIN

CHADIAN JUSTICE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON VISIT

AB252126 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The head of state, President Mathieu Kerekou, this morning granted an audience to a Chadian delegation led by the Chadian minister of justice. After the audience the Chadian minister, who is a special envoy from the president of the Chadian Transitional National Union Government, [GUNT] Goukouni Oueddei, spoke with Joseph Sany about his visit.

[Begin recording] [Kassire Koumakoye] As a matter of fact, my visit is in connection with the situation prevailing in Chad and its international consequences. President Goukouni has sent me to his counterpart, President Kerekou, to explain the development in the situation to him 'viva voce,' for confusion prevails in international opinion with regard to the Chadian situation. We believe that the recent Nairobi minisummit sowed confusion, if not imperialist mystification, instead of seeking a genuine solution to the problem. But it is our duty to explain the situation by word of mouth to those we consider supporters so they can become our spokesmen. They will in turn explain the real situation in Chad and its consequences to others at the international level.

[Question] You have just spoken of a development in the situation. Can you elaborate?

[Answer] There is a development with national and international consequences. At the international level, the OAU has just made a sharp turn. Fortunately, we think that the committee that made a decision on the Chadian problem is only a self-styled one. We are of the opinion that the other member states will not uphold the decision, for during its last meeting in Nairobi in June, the OAU had recognized the GUNT as the sole legal and legitimate institution entitled to lead the country to free and democratic elections. The recent minisummit tends to prove the contrary, but we cannot accept the (?dictate). Since the Chadian state is a (?founding member) of the organization, we will not allow it to impose a dictate on us. We refuse it because we are a sovereign nation. This must be clearly understood. The last Nairobi summit had stipulated that any decision on the Chadian problem could only be made with the consent of the GUNT. In view of this, we think there has been a new development: Has the OAU merely decided to reverse its decision? If so, the OAU rationale -- if any -- is incoherent.

Let us consider the situation in the field. The Chadian Government, which has realized that the OAU has partially failed to solve the problem in the field, had decided to launch a general counteroffensive to completely crush the enemy and we believe that the Chadian people and their government will defeat the evil forces and international imperialism.

[Question] Mr Minister, apart from the moral and political resources of the GUNT, do you think that the government in the present circumstances can militarily cope with the situation in the field?

[Answer] We have no alternative. We have pinned our hopes on the OAU. Now we can only count on our own means, even though they are not considerable, for we cannot cross our hands and wait for external assistance. We will use the scarce means we have and we are deeply convinced that we will triumph, for the most important thing is motivation. We have means to face this situation.

[Question] What is really the situation in the field? Some news agencies report the capture or recapture of such and such regions by the FAN or by the Integrated Armed Forces [ANI].

[Answer] The government was no reason to tell lies, because it is its responsibility to ensure the protection and security of the population. We are not resorting to blackmail. We do not have any reason to tell tales. In fact, we have actually regained control over more than four towns, but we cannot allow the enemy -- manipulated by imperialist forces -- to deny the facts. History will judge us in the days to come.

[Question] Do you not think that at the present stage, the factions forming a coalition with President Goukouni Oueddei may adopt a new strategy?

[Answer] The factions? No, I do not think so. I believe that now where there is confusion, it is in their interest to join hands behind President Goukouni. And for more than 2 weeks now we have been able to settle our own internal divergences. And before my departure from Chad, the government had obtained national unity; and it is this that has enabled us today to decisively stand against the common enemy of all the factions -- Hissein Habre's FAN.

[Question] How then can this unity be expressed on the field?

[Answer] The effectiveness of this unity lies in the fact that everyone had defined his political strategy, but unless there is lasting peace, we cannot hold elections. And Hissein is a man rejected by every faction leader and these factions, which today constitute the government forces, organized themselves to fight Hissein Habre when he was in Ndjamena during the 1980 war. Today, these forces maintain the same coalition and are helping the government to solve its problems; and we think that with the latest efforts we can definitely solve the internal divergences within the government in order to fight against our common enemy, which is a necessity. We hope that the conflict among the leaders of the factions is of a secondary nature and that the government's principal concern is Habre.

[Question] In this situation of semidivorce between the [GUNT] and the OAU, what plans are you making?

[Answer] There is no semidivorce between the OAU and the Chadian Government. There was confusion caused by some heads of states of the OAU member countries which the Government of Chad rejects. The Chadian Government has no right to fight the OAU, and it cannot fight the OAU; it considers the OAU as its own institution. But it refuses the dictate imposed by four heads of state. For us, we (?ignore) this. We are not fighting against the OAU and there cannot be a divorce from OAU. We think that the OAU must and has to continue to assume its responsibilities in order to settle the problem within the African context, as we are Africans. For this the permanent committee which has just met in Nairobi is an institutional heresy. We have forgotten that permanent committee. For us, in fact, it is an institutional heresy, because this institution does not exist. This is probably what made some people believe that there is a misunderstanding between the so-called standing committee -- which, for us does not exist -- and our government. But there is no difference between the OAU and the Chadian Government.

[Question] Recently some heads of state suggested that Hissein Habre and the GUNT should hold a roundtable meeting. What is your position?

[Answer] Our government's position is clear. Hissein Habre is a champion of bad faith. Most of the agreements signed with Hissein Habre since the time of Tombalbaye have never been respected by him. He will not change his mentality substantially now that he's in his forties. We cannot negotiate with Hissein Habre, because negotiating with Habre means eventually preparing the conditions for a third civil war in Chad. We refuse to do so and we will never do so. Let those who are supporting Hissein Habre understand this once and for all: We will never hold negotiations with Hissein Habre, for holding negotiations with Habre boils down to creating the conditions for a possible third civil war in Chad and to imposing another civil war on our people who have already suffered very much.

We prefer finding alternative solutions. We want to work out new conditions as soon as possible that will enable the Chadian people to choose their government through the ballot box. [end recording]

GHANA

CHIEFS ADVISED TO PROVIDE 'TRUE LEADERSHIP'

AB252301 Accra Domestic Service in English 2200 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council secretary for the upper region, Dr Awudu Tinoga, has advised chiefs in the region to offer true leadership to their people. In this connection, they should not think of what their people can do for them, but what they can do for their people.

He was addressing the 47th session of the upper regional house of chiefs at Bolgatanga. Dr Tinoga observed that if the institution of chieftancy is to command its due respect, then it must identify itself with the problems and the aspirations of the people. They should organize their people to produce food, ensure equitable distribution of farm imputs and organize communal labor for self-help projects.

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTION

AB251909 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The Christian Council of Ghana has commented on the formation the positive Christian movement in the country to support the revolution. The statement issued today and signed by the general secretary, Rev G. Ansah, made it clear that as individual member churches of the council and as a body they have always actively (?sought) to strengthen all positive factors and efforts to make life better for all. They have also long been involved in any ongoing Christian action work in the country. The statement made it clear that the council and the National Catholic Secretariat have had long-standing tradition of dealing directly with past governments and will continue to do the same with the Provisional National Defense Council. The Christian Council therefore sees no need to go through any new movement like the positive Christian movement.

PNDC DELEGATION RETURNS FROM LIBYA VISIT

AB250820 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Ghana's delegation to Libya returned to Accra last night after talks with Libyan leaders. The delegation was welcomed by the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. Speaking to newsmen on arrival, Chris Atim, member of the PNDC and leader of the delegation, described the visit as successful. It enabled them to put across, not only to Libyan people but to the world at large, the aims of the revolution. Mr Atim said that they concluded agreements with their Libyan counterparts on cooperation, especially in the scientific, cultural and educational fields.

Both sides agreed to establish joint commercial holdings to undertake ventures in agriculture, mining and fishery. Also to be established is a Ghana-Libya bank of development and an air transport service between the two countries. Ghana is also to receive two shiploads of oil from Libya as a sign of solidarity with the people of the country.

Mr Atim said although Ghana was not originally invited to the preparatory meeting for the establishment of the international Center for Resistance to Imperialism, Zionism, Racism and Reaction in Libya, the delegation had the opportunity to attend and meet revolutionaries from Africa and other Third World countries. He said that the delegation took the opportunity to explain the policies of the PNDC and its solidarity with countries which are in a similar position as Ghana and ready to prove solidarity with the revolution. Mr Atim said the delegation made it clear that Ghana is back on the stage again as a champion of African nationalism and as a black star of Africa. It is clear that everybody is looking up to Ghana to play the dynamic role that it played in the 1960's.

Mr Atim said the delegation pledged that Ghana will not let the continent down this time.

MALI

UDPM CONGRESS ENDS; NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

AB251747 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Yesterday afternoon, the ordinary session of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] ended with the election of new members for its two steering bodies -- the National Council and the Central Executive Bureau. In his closing speech Gen Moussa Traore, who has been reelected secretary general underscored the outstanding aspect of the congress, that is the creation of practical conditions for the dynamization and revival of the UDPM. The conditions include the judicious choice of new officers for the leading bodies of the party. In this regard, the new Central Executive Bureau comprises 19 members.

They are:

-- Secretary general	Gen Moussa Traore
-- Deputy secretary general	Col Amadou Baba Diarra
-- Political secretary	Djibril Diallo, Bamako Section III
-- Administrative secretary	Boubacar Diallo, Bamako Section IV
-- Organizing secretary	Bouille Siby, Nioro Section
-- Deputy organizing secretary	Baye ag Mohamed, Menaka Section
-- Secretary for external relations	Mohamadoun ag Mahami, Timbuctu Section
-- Secretary for economic and social affairs	Oumar Coulibaly, Bamako Section I
-- General treasurer	Col Filifing Sissoko
-- Deputy general treasurer	Sekou Minadiou Traore, Nyono Section
-- Secretary for information and culture	Tianzie Bolezogola, Sikasso Section
-- Secretary in charge of relations with the Malian Workers Union	Nangozie Ferdinand Berthe, Bamako Section I
-- Auditors	Col Sekou Doumbia, Mohamed Tilibe Soumare, Nara Section
-- Secretaries for disputes	Lt Col Mahamadou Keita, and Amagore Guindo, Manajara Section
-- Ex-officio members	Mamady Sangare, speaker of the National Assembly; Mrs Soro Satouko, president of the Malian Women's Union; and Mahamadou Baba Diallo, secretary general of the Malian Youth Union

In a nutshell, eight new members have been elected while three former members have changed responsibilities.

NIGER

KOUNTCHE ASKS CHADIANS 'TO PUT DOWN THEIR ARMS'

AB251441 Paris AFP in French 1138 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Diffa, 25 Feb (AFP) -- President Kountche of Niger on Wednesday launched an appeal in Bosso (extreme southeast of the country) to "Chadian brothers and sisters to put down their arms.' He called on them to "leave a place for union in their hearts and minds" so that they may "tackle together the reconstruction of their country."

The head of state of Niger, who has been touring Diffa on the Chad border -- 1,500 km east of the capital -- since Sunday, was addressing the Beri-Beri and Touba population of Niger who are related to those in Chad.

Colonel Kountche met the head of the Toubou, Arab, Tuareg and Fulah tribes at N'gourti to discuss with them problems of security and the "consolidation of national unity."

In this region, he visited Niger's military posts along the Chadian border which are charged with the security of nomadic shepherds.

NIGERIA

HOUSE APPROVES BUDGETS FOR MINISTRIES, FEDECO

AB251907 Lagos NAN in English 1815 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Lagos, 25 Feb (NAN) -- The House of Representatives today approved the 1982 budget estimates for the Ministries of Science and Technology, Transport and the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO).

This followed the approval of the report of House Committee on Appropriation.

The house however suspended action on the report of the committee in respect of estimates for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Animal Science.

About 17 million naira was approved as recurrent expenditure and more than 474 million naira as capital estimate for the Ministry of Transport.

The house approved more than 84 million naira as recurrent and an amended estimate of more than 100 million naira as capital expenditure for the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The Federal Electoral Commission got 45 million naira and 20 million naira as recurrent and capital estimates respectively.

Action was suspended on the appropriation report in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture because of an alleged typographical error in the amended 131 million naira recommended for approval by the committee.

Ten million naira was estimated in the 1982 budget for the ministry, for the purchase and distribution of fertiliser.

The chairman of the appropriation committee, Alhaji Aremu Yahaya, NPN-Kwara, told the house to suspend action on it for the chairman of the committee, Mr M.E. Ejiga to explain the report clearly.

Chief Tom Egbuwoku, UPN-Bendel, said that the three items recommended in the report were not in order and therefore should be rejected.